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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

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## ATEAM marks completion of 1,000<sup>th</sup> Air Gas Turbine engine

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

The Kansas National Guard’s Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance program marked the completion of its 1,000th turbine engine rebuild in a ceremony May 9. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, said bringing the ATEAM to its current level was a long and arduous task. “It wasn’t always in this kind of a facility. It kind of started on a shoestring,” said Tafanelli. “Early on, there were some challenges with ... some of the equipment, then getting the dynos. Now, today, we have what is a world-class premiere facility. But it is, really, the best-kept secret in the United States Army and it’s right here in Kansas.” “What’s important is when you look at how it got its start,” he continued. “Its purpose was to lower the overall maintenance cost and extend the life of the M1 tank fleet and that is exactly, 14 years later and a thousand engines later, what you all have accomplished. I think that’s a phenomenal feat that’s been accomplished by taking an idea and bringing it to full completion and having a production facility that does some-



**Sgt. Jesse Smith, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic leader at the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance program, Fort Riley, Kan., installs a power turbine into a regenerator of an Air Gas Turbine 5100 M1 Abrams tank engine. The ATEAM facility specializes in the rebuild of AGT1500 engines backed by a sustainment maintenance package for five years or 1,400 hours. The ATEAM has shipped AGT1500 turbine engines in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Noble Eagle. (Photo by Sharon Watson, Public Affairs Office)**

thing like this.” Tafanelli said that the engine itself was not the focus of the day’s event. “While it’s great when we can take time to recognize and celebrate the one thousandth engine that’s come through here, it’s not the engine that’s the important piece,” he said. “It’s the people that are behind this front row that make up the ATEAM. It’s their dedication, their hard work and their efforts that make this program successful.” The facility specializes in the rebuild of Air Gas Turbine 1500 M1 Abrams tank engines, backed by a sustainment maintenance package for five years or 1,400 hours. The ATEAM has shipped the AGT1500 turbine engines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Noble Eagle. The ATEAM is federally-funded and brings a significant economic benefit to the state of Kansas. It is a joint-manufacturing operation that employs 120 Army and Air National Guardsmen with an annual payroll of \$8.3 million. In 2013, the ATEAM will execute a repair parts budget of almost \$52 million, (Continued on Page 10)

## Kansas National Guard’s Family Program leads DoD pilot

**By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office**

With the help of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Family Program Office of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department is working toward being accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Overall, the Council on Accreditation is looking at those standards that are similar for the majority of National Guard State

Family Programs throughout the country. Kansas will be the first National Guard entity of its kind to go through the process, helping refine it for future National Guard state programs seeking accreditation. The accrediting program, Military and Family Readiness Program, starts with administration and management, which includes, but is not limited to, customer rights, human resources management, administration and service environment, training and supervision, and risk prevention and management. Additionally, the Family Program Office is working toward accrediting standards on volunteer coordination, military lifestyle support education, financial readiness and emergency family assistance. Mary Nesbitt, State Family Program director, said the process for accreditation is making them look at things differently as they identify and improve current policies and procedures. “It also highlights our best practices and allows us to show them off,” said Nesbitt. Once the Family Program Office has received accreditation, they will be able to support their claim that they can provide as much support as active installations for a lesser expense. The Kansas program service both branches of the Kansas National Guard as well as the rest of the surrounding military community. They never turn any service member away. The Family Program Office is hoping that the accreditation will demonstrate they have the ambition to go above and beyond what is required. “When looking to cut programs or to give out money to certain states, accreditation will hopefully help us get recognized as a state that goes above and beyond,” said Nesbitt. “The Kansas National Guard is (Continued on Page 10)

## Guardsmen return from week-long deployment to Armenia

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office** A three-person team from the Kansas National Guard’s 235th Regiment has returned from a week-long trip to the Republic of Armenia where they conducted a site survey for basic medical first responder and casualty evacuation procedures. The trip concluded March 30 and was in preparation for a Basic Medical First Responder course the team will teach later in the year. Staff Sgt. Brian Martin, Staff Sgt. Kimberly Fox and Staff Sgt. Vernon Perkins assessed procedures the Armenian Humanitarian Demining Center has in place. They inspected the demining center’s

medical ability, identified gaps, created an equipment list with European Command’s Humanitarian Mine Action Program and developed a course of instruction tailored to the AHDC needs and equipment available. The team will return to Armenia in May to provide medical familiarization. The engagement with AHDC is coordinated through European Command’s Humanitarian Mine Clearing Branch. “This is a great opportunity to learn more about how the medical piece of the Demining Center functions,” said Martin. “Our goal is to try to add or improve their capabilities, which should save lives.” (Continued on Page 11)



**Staff Sgt. Brian Martin, McPherson, Kan., a health-care specialist (combat medic) with the 2nd Battalion, 235th Regiment, watches an Armenian soldier practice the first aid skills he learned during a week-long course taught by Martin and two other Kansas Guardsmen. The Guardsmen were in Yerevan, Armenia, March 24-30 to coordinate preparation for an upcoming workshop on battlefield first aid. (Photo by Capt. Aaron Isaacson, bilateral affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy, Yerevan)**

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# Sprawka graduates as first female artillery warrant officer

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

The time for women in combat roles has come as the Department of Defense lifted the ban on women serving in ground combat jobs Jan. 24, 2013, changing the military as we know it. Unknowingly, Warrant Officer 1 Carol Sprawka graduated as a field artillery targeting technician at Fort Sill, Okla., as the first National Guard female in that field.

To her it was just a natural progression of her military career in the Kansas Army National Guard. Sprawka had her eyes set on becoming a technical leader in her field and unit.

“It’s something that’s in you. If you’re infantry, you’re infantry. If you’re a Marine, you’re a Marine. I’m artillery all the way, and I wasn’t going to change that,” said Sprawka, who is assigned to the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. “It’s a brotherhood and I don’t want to give that up.”

In her new duties, Sprawka will lead and train a team of artillery noncommissioned officers while advising commanding officers on target acquisitions. But Sprawka, 40, has much more to share with Soldiers. Her experience spans two decades and two deployments as a field artillery supervisor/meteorology crewmember.

Enlisting in the Kansas Guard in 1990, Sprawka scored exceptionally high on her Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, making her eligible for a long list of Military Occupational Specialties open to



Warrant Officer 1 Carol Sprawka, a recent graduate of field artillery targeting technician school, is the first female artillery warrant officer in the National Guard. (Photo by Steve Puppe)

women at the time. Meteorology appealed to her as she grew up in Oklahoma’s tornado alley and has always been interested the weather.

At the time of her enlistment into the National Guard, Sprawka was aware she would be entering a male-dominated society. Even though women make up approximately 15 percent of the Army National Guard, she constantly found herself the only woman within her field, including at Noncommissioned Officer Education Sys-

tem schools.

During her deployment to Iraq with the 130th Field Artillery Brigade in 2006, Sprawka set her mind on becoming a warrant officer. She worked closely with the chief of staff and her commanding officers, which gave her the ability to understand the missions on a larger scale.

“I like knowing every little piece of what was going on, instead of just the field I was concentrating on,” she said. “And that’s what got my curiosity going. I could put the whole

[operations] picture together in my head.”

After returning home in 2007, Sprawka perused recruiters on the off chance there was a female warrant officer position in artillery. Sprawka found out she could stay in artillery as a field artillery targeting technician and began Warrant Officer Candidate School at the Kansas National Guard’s 235th Regional Training Institute February 2011. Sprawka completed with a two-week course at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

In July 2012, after waiting another year to go to field artillery school while her husband was on deployment, Sprawka joined an all-male class for 33 weeks at the 428th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla.

Finally graduating Feb. 26 in front of family, friends and mentors, Sprawka made history.

“Now that more combat roles are being opened up to women, it’s a point of pride for the Kansas National Guard that one of our own is first in the National Guard to qualify for this position,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general of Kansas.

As a warrant officer, Sprawka hopes to become a mentor and confidante to her enlisted Soldiers.

“I want to be someone to train them and make them more aware of how they can progress in their career,” she said. “Being a warrant officer is the best of both worlds. You get to work with your NCOs, which is what I was for most of my career, and you get to advise the officers above you on what they need.”

# Kansas National Guard partners with Kansas Speedway

By Spc. Robert I. Havens  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Kansas National Guard continued their successful relationship with Kansas Speedway during the Sprint Cup STP 400 race held April 19-21.

The relationship that started with the Guard setting up a display at Cabela’s during the first NASCAR races in Kansas City has evolved into a relationship with Kansas Speedway highlighting what the Kansas National Guard has to offer.

“The Guard has sent out several Soldiers to be seen in the public serving their dual mission as neighbors in their community and a fighting force to protect them,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, adjutant general. “It is important the members of the community understand the ways we are able to assist them as their fighting force.”

Members of the Guard were also on hand to answer questions about their jobs and to show off their equipment to members of the community.

Several vehicles were on display including humvees, an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, an M1 Abrams tank and an M109 self-propelled howitzer.

The static display gave children a closer look at the vehicles the Guard operates and gives prospective Guard members a chance to speak with current Soldiers on what life is like in the military.

The Guard participants were also able to bring a sense of calm to the event which followed the weekend after the bombings in Boston.

“In the wake of the events in Boston, it is important for the public to know that the Guard has always been prepared for service whenever we are needed and to provide a sense of calm in the midst of chaos,” said Tafarielli. “Being here at this race, the first major event of its kind following the bombing, it will help bring a peace of mind to participants that they are safe and we are taking precautions to ensure their safety.”

The Kansas Speedway donated 3,000 tickets to members of the Kansas National Guard and their families to the Sprint Cup STP 400 race.

“We appreciate the sacrifices the men and women of the Kansas National Guard and their families make to let us be able to host races at Kansas Speedway,” said Pat Warren, Kansas Speedway president. “These tickets represent a small thank you of our deep appreciation for what they do and I hope they are able to enjoy an exciting day at the races.”

Dale Earnhardt Jr., professional race car driver of the 88 National Guard car, stopped by the National Guard VIP area at turn three of the track and answered questions. Earnhardt also shared safety advice to the Soldiers.

Earnhardt said it’s been a while since he’s gotten a speeding ticket. When he’s in a



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general, gives the oath of enlistment to Kansas National Guard’s newest members before the Sprint Cup STP 400 NASCAR race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., April 21. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

hurry he recalls his father telling him to “Slow down, they can’t start without you.”

Prior to the start of the race, Tafarielli gave the oath of enlistment to 10 new Guardsmen in front of fans.

“It was pretty nerve-racking being in front of all those people,” said Pvt. Evan Weir, who is hoping to become a motor transport operator. “Standing up there in front of all those people helped me understand I had a duty to protect and help them.”

“It really feels like I am part of something bigger than me,” said Pvt. Ariel Anderson, who also aspires to become a motor transport operator.

# Simulator expands Kansas Army National Guard capabilities

Spc. Anna Laurin  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kansas National Guard motor transport operator instructors were trained how to properly operate and instruct with an operator-driving simulator at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., Feb. 2.

“Today’s mission was to certify the individuals who went through the class to be able to run this piece of equipment,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timmy Morris, Training Aids Devices Simulators and Simulations non-commissioned officer in charge at the training center.

The simulator is used for the motor transport operator instructors as part of their program of instruction, but it also can be

used by other units of the state.

“Our plan for the future is to train the trainer,” said Morris, “where units could come in, we would train them, test them, make sure they can run the system and then they sign for the piece of equipment and run it themselves.”

The simulator can be used for Soldier-to-Soldier training, but its main purpose is qualifying those who are in the motor transport operator course.

“In a year there can be eight or nine classes of 88M or motor transport operators,” said Morris. “And those classes are usually made up of 10 to 15 Soldiers from all over the United States.”

During the course, students may encounter

situations where they struggle to understand how to operate a vehicle, for example backing a vehicle into a narrow space with a trailer behind it, also known as alley docking.

“We have a lot of students that have issues when it comes to alley docking or serpentine backing,” said Morris, who is also a MTO instructor. “This machine has that capability, so if the student is having issues, we don’t have to spend the gas money and depend on weather conditions to train them.”

It allows the instructors to repeatedly and constructively instruct students on certain areas they may find difficult.

The operator driving simulator is a milestone for the course and GPJTC and is one of few throughout the United States.

“This simulator is the only one in Kansas,” said Jeffery Ball, equipment trainer, FAAC Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich. “Between now and this December there are nine to deliver throughout the whole National Guard.”

The simulator is a great tool and reflection of the capability of the Kansas Army National Guard.

“There’s a lot of opportunity for the units of the state of Kansas, and other organizations, to use the Training Aids Devices Simulators and Simulations that we have out here,” said Morris.

For more information or to sign up for a class call Morris at 785-826-3719 or timmy.e.morris.mil@mail.mil.



# Guardsmen learn skills to tell the story of the Kansas National Guard

By Spc. Jennifer M. Bjorgaard  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard, along with members of the Civil Air Patrol, gathered March 2-3 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute for instruction on how to be a Unit Public Affairs Representative.

A UPAR is a service member who is appointed within a unit and made responsible for fostering community relationships and publicizing unit events through stories, photographs, videography and social media.

“The more that we can have our UPARs out there writing those stories [about] the community interest activities that our Soldiers and Airmen are involved with, I think it’s just a great thing for everybody,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general.

Service members spent two days receiving instruction and participating in group activities that allowed hands-on practice at writing stories and taking photos.

“I thought the training was great,” said Staff Sgt. Jared Meier, a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, in Liberal, Kan. “It was short and sweet, but relevant at the same time.”

Information about complying with military and Associated Press guidelines were also stressed during the training weekend.

2nd Lt. Dawn M. Sahr, a safety officer with the Civil Air Patrol in Salina, Kan., was happy to learn about what was permitted for publication. Previously, she believed that regulations might make accurate and interesting reporting difficult.

“It took a lot of barriers down,” said Sahr. “This opened the door on what I can promote.”



Steve Larson, deputy director of the Adjutant General’s Department Public Affairs Office, delivers a presentation on photography to Kansas Guardsmen and Civil Air Patrol members attending the Unit Public Affairs Representative class March 3 at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Lt. Gen. Ingram: Army National Guard great value to America

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

The Army National Guard is accessible, capable, ready and a great value to America, its director told Congress.

“Army National Guard Soldiers have repeatedly shown that they are ready to serve,” Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr. testified on Capitol Hill. “All Guard Soldiers have either enlisted or re-enlisted since 9/11 fully aware that they would likely be deployed into combat.”

Ingram testified twice in two days, briefing Congressional committees on the state of the Army National Guard. He appeared before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces as it



Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr.

Attendees also had the opportunity to see successful UPARs being recognized for their exemplary work when Tafanelli presented two Soldiers with awards.

Sgt. Iris N. Marston, UPAR for the 635th Regional Support Group, Hutchison, Kan., was given the Billie E. Fuqua Unit Public Affairs Representative of the Year 2012 award in journalism. The Fuqua is awarded by the Adjutant General’s Public Affairs Office to the outstanding UPAR of the year.

This award is presented annually to only one Soldier or Airman recognizing their overwhelming contribution to the Plains Guardian, the Adjutant General’s Department bimonthly newspaper.

Spc. Michelle Lawrence, UPAR for the 35th Military Police Company, Topeka, Kan., received the 2012 National Guard Bureau Media Contest Award in the category of Contribution by Stringer – Photojournalism for work she completed while deployed to the Horn of Africa. A stringer is someone who has contributed to a publication, but is not assigned to the publications staff.

The training goal was to enable attendees to return to their units as confident and functioning UPARs.

According to attendees, the weekend was a success.

“It was very helpful,” said Sahr. “It gave you a broader outlook of what you can use for PA instead of just ‘I’m going to write an article.’”

UPAR training is a yearly event held in Salina, Kan. For more information on UPAR training, contact the Public Affairs Office in Topeka, Kan., (785) 274-1190.

held a hearing on maintaining the National Guard and the Reserves in a time of fiscal austerity. The next day, Ingram testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense about oversight of the National Guard.

The general cited examples of the Army National Guard’s accessibility, capability, readiness and value:

More than 23,000 Citizen-Soldiers currently mobilized worldwide, including almost 21,000 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 500,000 individual Soldier mobilizations since 9/11.

More than 447,000 duty-days conducting state missions in the 2012 fiscal year, which Ingram called “historically, a very slow year for the Guard.”

50,000 Citizen-Soldiers from all 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia supported Hurricane Katrina rescue and recovery efforts while 80,000 Citizen-Soldiers were simultaneously deployed overseas.

(Continued on Page 5)

# The future of first response might be clear as glass

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht  
Public Affairs Office

How far has society come with using mobile technology? Cell phones alone have gone from voice only calls to Internet, text and many other uses. Recently, Google has released, on a trial basis, a wearable mobile device that has vast potential for not only the public, but military, emergency managers and first responders.

The idea behind Google Glass is to give the public access to information without being tied to a computer, phone or tablet. The device is a camera, display, touchpad, battery and microphone built on an eyeglass frame. Because it is an all-in-one wearable device, it gives you the hands-free ability to take pictures and video and search for information.

Adam Crowe, an author and the director of emergency preparedness at Virginia Commonwealth University, is very interested in this new technology.

“I think the possibilities for augmented reality (aka Google Glass) are almost endless for first responders,” said Crowe. “With its ability to access Internet and localized data via wireless technology, it is highly feasible that an EMT could have response protocols presented simultaneously to treating a patient or firefighters could have floor plans of buildings generated for areas that are smoky or obstructed. This type of augmented reality would most likely improve efficiency, effectiveness and field safety operations.”



“Rather than having to look away from an emergency scene/challenge, which most of us have to do to check or access additional information, we can engage in the real world with increased efficiency because that information is right in front of us,” said Crowe.

Google Glass can be integrated to social media sites and have the ability to take and share photos or video from the device. With this ability, Google Glass will allow real-time information to be collected and shared for a more quick and efficient emergency response.

Currently, Google is in the testing phase of the device and will possibly release it in 2014. Application developers are already figuring out uses for the new device.

“The entire system system’s like science fiction and will certainly continue to evolve,” said Crowe, “but I think it is the next step of when, where, and how we receive information.

# Unit Public Affairs Representative wins award in NGB Media Contest



Spc. Michelle Lawrence (right), a combat medic and unit public affairs representative with the 35th Military Police Company, of Dighton, Kan., receives a coin from Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (left), the adjutant general, congratulating her on winning first place in the 2012 National Guard Bureau Media Contest Award in the category of Contribution by Stringer – Photojournalism. She won the award for work she completed while deployed to the Horn of Africa. Lawrence was presented the coin in front of her UPAR peers at the 2013 Kansas National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representative course in Salina, Kan., March 2.

“I was shocked. I was never first place at anything in my life,” said Lawrence. “It’s a huge honor. Words can’t explain how honored I am to get this recognition, hands down more than I could have ever asked for.”

Lawrence served as a unit public affairs representative for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery while deployed to the Horn of Africa March 2011 to February 2012. Lawrence wrote stories highlighting what U.S. Soldiers did in countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique, Burundi and Kenya.

“It was the best experience I could have ever asked for,” said Lawrence. “I had the best people around me in Africa to really push me and make me into this great journalist.” (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Despite many challenges ahead, we’re getting well-deserved recognition

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
Adjutant General

A recent Department of Defense decision to proceed with furloughing more than 54 percent of our federal workforce is unfortunate and will result in significant challenges for our federal technicians and federal civilians and their families. It is a decision all of the Kansas National Guard leadership had hoped wouldn’t happen, but the choice was not ours to make.

We are committed to assisting everyone affected by the furlough decision as much as we possibly can. Many questions may be answered in a National Guard Bureau document that we have posted on our website [http://www.kansastag.gov/fedthro\\_default.asp](http://www.kansastag.gov/fedthro_default.asp). We will also be conducting town hall meetings for our staff to ensure everyone



Maj. Gen.  
Lee Tafanelli

has a chance to ask additional questions that may not be addressed in the document. At the same time these challenges are upon us, we have received some extremely positive national recognition for the dedicated, hard working staff we have in our department. The 190th Air Refueling Wing, although not selected to become the home of the KC-46A in the Air Force’s first round of decisions, is one of only five National Guard air bases in the nation to be considered. This is an honor and is recognition of the talented and capable people we have at Forbes Field. Plus, the 190th ARW will remain in the running for the KC-46A as future decisions are made for more National Guard bases to receive the new tanker. We knew from the outset that if McConnell was tapped to receive the new tankers for the active duty component, it was unlikely that the Department of Defense would also select the 190th ARW since it is also in Kansas. However, it’s important to note that the 190th scored extremely well during the site survey visit conducted by the National Guard Bureau and Air Mobility Command, and that being in the running brought na-

tional attention to the base’s strengths. The 190th ARW also received the Disney Award this year for having the top food service organization in the Air National Guard. Congratulations to the 190th! On the emergency management side of the agency, congratulations are in order to deputy director Angee Morgan and all of the staff of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. KDEM was recently notified it passed all the requirements to receive accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. EMAP is a voluntary review process for state and local emergency management programs that is a means of demonstrating, through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that a program meets national standards for emergency management. As Gov. Sam Brownback noted, the accreditation is “a significant ‘stamp of approval’ that validates the commitment this state has to emergency management and protecting the health and safety of Kansans.”

It’s important that we take time to stop and recognize that our hard work is paying off, that others are aware and they are taking notice. This is not to say that all will be smooth sailing from here forward. There are still challenges ahead that we must work through. However, the men and women of the Adjutant General’s Department, military and civilian alike, have demonstrated time

and again a willingness to face those challenges head on, applying our skills, knowledge and experience individually and as a team to solve problems and carry out our primary mission: to protect life and property through planning, coordination, and synchronization of state and federal resources and to provide a ready military, emergency management, and homeland security capability for our state and nation. Fulfilling this mission requires two kinds of people. It takes leaders who are willing to shoulder the responsibilities that leadership entails, making difficult, but necessary decisions to get the job done. It also takes people who are willing to get in the trenches and follow the vision set by the leaders, doing what is needed to carry out the mission without worrying about who gets the credit. I have been blessed to have both kinds of people in this organization. I have leaders who have worked their way up through the ranks, gaining knowledge and experience that I know I can rely upon. And those who are under their direction are professional, dedicated and always willing to go the extra mile to make sure their office, their department and this agency as a whole maintains the reputation for service to Kansas it has built up over 158 years. I want to say “Thank you” to all of you for continuing to serve the people of Kansas and this great nation.

Top hazards around the house

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Terhune  
Safety Office

I read an interesting article about the top five hazards around the home. My first thought was what age bracket fit the best into each of the five hazards. Accidents can happen to anyone; some are just more prone than others. Do you really believe that statement? I think some people just do a better job of preventing accidents! Number one on the list was “falls.” This is not surprising to me since children, as well as adults, seem to slip, trip or fall at home or at the job site. Poisoning was number two. This hazard would be directed towards children, but is very preventable with a little common sense. Number three is fire/burns. What is the leading cause of home fires? If you guessed cooking, you are right! What is the leading cause of cooking fires? Unattended cooking! You should have this safety thing



Chief Warrant  
Officer 4  
Marvin Terhune

down by now. Number four is choking/suffocation, which could be children or adults. The leading cause of choking is of course food. The last of the top five is drowning. Again, this one will happen to children as well as adults. Now that you know the top five hazards are you thinking prevention? You just received an A+ if you are. Go over the five hazards again and think of your family, your house or where you work and think of prevention measures. You can pick up items or clean up spills to prevent slips or trips. Move poisonous items away from children’s reach or lock them up. Stay in the kitchen when cooking, especially when frying! Watch your children when they are eating and cut up items small enough for them to chew and swallow. You may need to watch your older children and adults around the house as well. Some older children like to eat very fast and sort of inhale their food instead of slowing down to taste it. It is almost pool time again but drowning can happen in the bathtub. Do not leave small children unattended in the tub. It just takes a second for bad things to happen! Keep these hazards in mind and keep your family safe. Prevention is the key!

Warrior to Warrior  
Education is the key to success

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael W. Haeffele  
1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

I am sure that all or most of you have had your first sergeant telling you that you need to go to school of some sort, whether it is a Noncommissioned Officer Education System school, Advanced Individual Training to become Military Occupation Specialty qualified or some other type of military school. Some of you might even be asking why, because you think that you already know how to do your job. My challenge to you is why not take it to the next level? What is holding you back? Education is an important part of our lives and careers. It didn’t stop when we graduated high school. It is a life-long process that needs to be rejuvenated on a constant basis. Whether you continue your civilian education or military education, expanding your level of knowledge only makes you better at everything you do. Our level of education is sometimes a



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Michael W. Haeffele

determining factor of whether we get that promotion in our civilian jobs and a definite factor for our military careers. As I look back over my 27-year career with the Kansas Army National Guard, I realize that my education was a key factor in my promotions and assignments. I understand that the NCOES requirements are different now than they were when I was a young Soldier trying to make a difference. I also know that even though a Soldier may have completed all of their NCOES schools they still may not be at the top of the promotion list. The opposite side to this coin is that, if your NCOES is not completed, you have no chance at upward mobility and are probably not in a promotable status. The Kansas Army National Guard needs well educated Soldiers and noncommissioned officers to take us into the future. If you are not fully qualified in your current rank, you need to attend the level of NCOES for your current grade. This means that if you are a sergeant you need to have Warrior Leader Course. A staff sergeant needs to have Advanced Leader Course and a sergeant first class needs to have Senior Leader Course to be fully qualified and be eligible for promotion. Education is a key requirement that we need to fulfill in order to do our jobs to our best capabilities. What is holding you back?

Spring brings new candidates

By Chief Warrant Officer 5  
Hector Vasquez  
State Command Chief Warrant Officer

With the arrival of spring came the start of the FY-13 State Warrant Officer Candidate School course in Salina. The school kicked off with a “Zero Phase” in March designed to familiarize candidates with course expectations and information as they prepared to enter Phase II of training. The intent of Zero Phase is to give the candidates a taste of what the next five months will be like. Following-up Zero Phase, Phase II began April 19 with a total of 10 candidates enrolled in the course; seven of them belong to Kansas. Once the candidates successfully complete Phase II, they will finish the last portion of WOCS (Phase III) at Camp Atterbury, Ind., during which they will be trained for 15 days on various field training exercises, ad-



Command Chief  
Warrant Officer 5  
Hector Vasquez

vanced Soldier skills, and leadership concepts and applications. Upon graduation of Phase III, candidates will be reintegrated into their units as the National Guard’s newest warrant officers. The Kansas National Guard Association Conference was held April 12 to 14 in Manhattan, Kan., and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nathan Hammon, an aviation safety officer with 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, Topeka, Kan., was recognized as the “2012 Warrant Officer of the Year.” Hammon entered the KSARNG in 2000 and has since deployed to Bosnia, Iraq and Kuwait. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with numeral three device and Army Commendation Medal to name a few. Congratulations to Hammon for his commitment to excellence and for being selected as the “Warrant Officer of the Year.” During the NGAUS Conference, attending warrant officers were also provided an opportunity to hear from Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Ensminger, the command chief warrant officer for the National Guard, who spoke about changes within the warrant officer community. The main topic that Ensminger spoke about was warrant officer strength, (Continued on Page 20)

PLAINS GUARDIAN

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# Sodium and potassium can help regulate your blood pressure

By Maj. Amy Blow  
Occupational Health Office

High blood pressure is referred to as “The Silent Killer” because it quietly wrecks havoc on vital organs and blood vessels over a period of time with little to no symptoms to alert a person to the problem. It is one of the six major controllable risk factors for cardiovascular disease along with high cholesterol, obesity, tobacco use and inactivity.



Maj. Amy Blow

The National Heart Lung and Blood Institutesays at least one in every three adults in the U.S. has high blood pressure. That means that more than 60 million Americans who have the condition are at increased risk for heart disease, stroke and kidney failure. Studies show that although hypertension is not a normal condition of aging, many people develop high blood pressure as they get older.

What is blood pressure and what do the readings tell us?

Blood pressure is the force of blood against artery walls. It is measured in millimeters of mercury and recorded as two numbers—the top number, systolic pressure (when the heart beats) over the bottom number, diastolic pressure (when the heart relaxes between beats). The blood pressure reading assigns a number value to the two different phases of the hearts work cycle and both

numbers are important. A normal blood pressure reading is written as 120/80 and a high blood pressure reading is anything 140/90 or higher. Blood pressure rises and falls during the day, but when it stays elevated over time, then it is called high blood pressure.

High blood pressure is dangerous because it makes the heart work too hard, and the high force of the blood flow can harm arteries and organs such as the heart, kidneys, brain and eyes. When blood vessels get stretched, they weaken over time, which allows cholesterol and plaque to build up in the existing scar tissue. The reduced blood flow from the buildup of plaque can be life threatening. High blood pressure often has no warning signs or symptoms. Once it occurs, it usually lasts a lifetime. If uncontrolled, it can lead to heart and kidney disease, stroke and blindness.

The good news is that diet can help lower high blood pressure and maintain normal blood pressure. Since high sodium and low potassium levels in the body lead to high blood pressure, watching what you eat plays a critical role.

Sodium in the body increases blood pressure by causing a person to retain fluids. Potassium on the other hand, decreases blood pressure by reducing blood volume with the excretion of water through the kidneys, which reduces the strain or “pressure” on the arterial walls.

Potassium and sodium work together to maintain the body’s fluid balance. The kidneys regulate potassium levels; the more potassium in the body, then the more sodium to be excreted. If a person has low

## Tips to Reduce Salt Intake

We should not exceed **2,300 milligrams per day**  
This adds up to approximately one teaspoon!

- **Think fresh**
  - Reduce the processed foods in your diet.
  - Replace your usual side dishes, with a vegetable or fruit at every meal.
  - Fresh or frozen are good choices.
- **Enjoy home-prepared foods**
  - You will know what is in your food.
  - It will allow you to control how much is in your food.
- **Ask for low-sodium foods when you eat out**
  - Restaurants can prepare them upon request.
  - They can serve sauces and dressings on the side, so you can use less.
- **Choose dairy & protein foods with lower sodium**
  - Cheeses have more sodium than fat-free/low-fat milk or yogurt.
  - Choose unsalted nuts and seeds.
  - Fresh meats have less sodium than deli meats, sausages and canned products.

AND...

\*REDUCE to 1,500 mg per day, if you meet any of the following criteria!!

- 51 years old or older
- African Americans
- Have high blood pressure already
- Diabetes
- Chronic Kidney Disease

Did you know a McDonald's Big Mac has **1007mg** Sodium?

potassium levels, the existing sodium is more likely to hold on to the water in the body, aggravating some medical conditions. Excessive exercise, alcoholism, malnutrition, taking medications such as diuretics and uncontrolled diabetes can cause dangerous lows in potassium levels.

The American Dietetic Association points out that while most fruits and vegetables have high potassium content, a majority of Americans are consuming only half the amount of potassium they need to stay healthy. Their research shows that of the estimated 33 percent of Americans who are consuming the recommended daily allowance of

4,700 mg of potassium each day, many of them are getting their potassium from less healthy food choices. Potassium should come from fruits and vegetables, low fat dairy products, whole grains and lean meat. Bananas, oranges, cantaloupe, apricots, Brussels sprouts, avocados and prunes are just some of the food sources that are rich in potassium. Raisins, spinach, grapefruit, and potatoes are other high potassium foods.

Before changing your healthy eating plan, it is always a good idea to talk to your healthcare provider. As with anything, moderation is the key to balancing your health and wellness.

# Evaluation addresses issue of toxic leadership styles in military

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sandra Lashley  
State Equal Employment Manager

There have been several stories in the news concerning senior personnel in the active duty Army and Air Force being ordered to step down because of their “toxic” leadership style. A brigadier general faces charges of sexual misconduct. A colonel was identified as a toxic leader who threatened to stab subordinates in the left eye with an ice pick for any disloyal behavior. Army Medical Command has a “trust initiative” that became perverted and resulted in a group bullying other members of that command. That commander is on administrative leave pending the legal review.



Chief Warrant Officer 4  
Sandra Lashley

The Army has been looking at issues of toxic leadership for a few years now. In a 2011 survey conducted by the Center for Army Leadership one in five identified their superior as “toxic and unethical.” An Army Times article “Rooting out Toxic Leaders” Oct. 9, 2011, discussed information on a 360-degree evaluation where officers are graded anonymously by their subordinates, peers and supervisors on their leadership abilities.

The intent of the evaluation is to help the individual officer identify potential toxic habits that they can work to improve. The plan is to eventually use the 360-degree evaluation for command selection boards. The requirement is to do this every three years.

In a 2013 article in the Army Times, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno stated that the 360-degree survey will be used to identify battalion and brigade commanders who have issues, then give them the chance to correct their behavior. If their behavior is not improved, the Army will take whatever action is appropriate.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, has asked the services to develop implementation plans to use the 360-degree evaluation within the next six months. The use of the evaluations as a tool to help evaluate leaders is also a method of preventing toxic leaders by identifying those habits early in their career then mentoring those leaders on improving their leadership methods.

The push to discharge bad leaders is growing in light of the high level personnel that have made the news in recent years. More service members are coming forward to identify the difficult climates that they are working under. A leader’s intent is reflected by their actions or toxic actions. We must ask where their priorities lie; do they value their service members or themselves?

The 360 degree Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback (MSAF360) can be accessed at the following website <http://msaf.army.mil/LeadOn.aspx>. The program was first developed late 2011 to help develop future leaders.

(Continued on Page 11)

# Lt. Gen. Ingram: Army National Guard great value to America

Continued from Page 3

“Today’s Army National Guard is the best-manned, best-equipped, best-trained, best-led and most experienced in its 376-year history,” Ingram said. “The Army National Guard is fully accessible, a proven battle-tested force. Army National Guard units have answered the call and accomplished their mission, time and again, without fail.”

The director expressed concern about potential budget cuts. He raised the alarm about the possible impacts of sequestration on readiness, training and equipment. He highlighted the impact of potential furloughs of military technicians.

“It would be a terrible waste of energy, effort and resources to let the Army National Guard — a superb operational force — atrophy as a result of across-the-board cuts,” Ingram said. “Those cuts would fail to consider the significant value relative to cost of the Army National Guard. It only takes a continued modest investment to maintain an operational force when compared to the strategic reserve the nation had prior to 9/11.”

Among potential sequestration impacts, Ingram listed the curtailment of periodic health assessments, which would quickly

affect readiness; loss of school seats and training opportunities such as annual training in support of European Command; diminished or halted equipment maintenance and delayed procurement.

“The furlough of military technicians will impact our maintenance programs [and] the fact that the depots in the Army will be severely curtailed, if not closed, will cause a maintenance backlog,” Ingram said.

Recalling a time in his more than 40-year career when the Army National Guard could not afford to fuel vehicles and had severely outdated equipment, Ingram said the component understands well how to “make something with not much.”

Said Ingram, “When you take even a little bit from not much, that puts you over the edge — that puts you so far out of balance that we move toward that hollow force every quickly.”

Family, psychological health and employment programs would be the last to be cut, Ingram said.

Among his priorities, he said the Army National Guard should be included in rotations at the combat training centers and should participate in security engagement opportunities.

# State Chaplain’s Corner Kansas chaplain receives posthumous Medal of Honor

By Chaplain (Col.) William Jenkins  
Kansas National Guard State Chaplain

Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun, a Roman Catholic priest from Pilsen, Kan., was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor April 11 for his extraordinary heroism, patriotism and selfless service while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division from Nov. 1-2, 1950, in combat operations at Unsan, Korea, and then as a prisoner of war until his death.

Kapaun has been called a shepherd in combat boots. His fellow Soldiers called him a saint and their own blessing from God.

Kapaun repeatedly risked his life in the face of enemy fire as he helped recover the wounded. When enemy forces closed



Chaplain (Col.)  
William D. Jenkins

in, he refused to retreat, volunteering to stay behind and care for the wounded. He was taken as a prisoner of war by the Chinese Nov. 2. A prisoner of war until his death May 23, 1951, Kapaun saved countless lives and inspired fellow prisoners to survive the brutal conditions, resist torture and retain their faith in God and country.

Following the presentation of the Medal of Honor, Chief of Chaplains (Maj. Gen.) Donald L. Rutherford offered this prayer: “Lord, God, let us go forth into the world in peace and dedication to your service. Let us follow Chaplain Kapaun’s example and hold fast to that which is good; render to no person evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted. May we support the weary, encourage the tired, and honor all peoples. Let us love and serve, and may God’s blessing be upon us, pray with us today and always, as we ask and pray in your Holy Name. Amen.”

If you have a need, please give one of our chaplains a call today—we truly care!

Pro Deo Et Patria... For God and Country!



What we do:

190th Fuels Systems shop

By Airman 1st Class Sara Beth Piland  
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The 190th Air Refueling Wing Fuel Systems shop is a critical cog in the machinery of keeping the wing’s KC-135s flying and supplying fuel to other aircraft. No gas, no mission.

The fuels shop employs 13 people to repair fuel system components of the KC-135. Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Brown, fuels technician, said the team works in a “feast or famine” environment where there is no work or a seemingly overwhelming amount of repairs.

“We face confined spaces and the certainty of minor scrapes and bruises as we work, but you just get in there and do it anyway,” he said.

The job they do is much more dangerous, difficult and skilled than the average person might expect. They work under a constant time crunch because as long as they are working, the plane is not flying.

On a typical day they need to get rid of the fuel fumes and take multiple readings to ensure the safety of the Airmen before using a bubble solution and pressure hose to discover the source of any leaks.

Working in teams of three, they accomplish the tasks set before them. The entrant works from the inside, climbing through at least one surprisingly small hole in an effort to reach the necessary area. Senior Air-

man Stephan Westermann said his favorite part of the job is seeing people’s reaction when they realize a human has to fit into such a small space.

Standing outside that hole is the attendant, who relays messages between the entrant and the worker investigating the leak from the outside of the wing. The attendant also watches out for the safety of the entrant, ready to assist should anything endanger them. The team is rounded out by the runner who monitors equipment and controls access to the hangar.

“The best thing about fuel systems is working with a team you know you can depend on,” said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Hossain. “It is satisfying to complete an intricate, detail-oriented job, especially on deployment when you know the mission is so important.”

“Fixing a leak and helping a plane complete its mission is very rewarding,” said Master Sgt. Daniel Mangiarcino, “ especially knowing that I’m doing a job most people don’t want.”

The shop is excited at the prospect of a \$1.7 million renovation, which is planned to take place in nine months. The hangar will be upgraded with new, safer hangar doors and greater accessibility. This will create an even better work environment for the technicians and traditional workers in fuel systems, said Mangiarcino.



A KC-135 of the Kansas National Guard’s 190th Air Refueling Wing is cordoned off for fuel tank maintenance at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Allen Pickert, 190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs)

Coyotes help keep tradition marching on in New Mexico

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Alley  
190th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Several members of the 190th Air Refueling Wing Medical Group and legal office recently followed in the footsteps of their World War II predecessors.

Three teams from the 190th ARW, along with a few participants from Joint Force Headquarters, completed the annual 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico.

“After mile 15, you hit a wall. You don’t think you can go any further, and you have to dig down inside yourself to keep going,” said Tech. Sgt. Ana Tavares from the 190th Medical Group.

As a medic, Tavares found the event historically meaningful. Her team marched with medical kits to treat injuries along the way. Seventy years ago, American military medics did the same. With few, if any, supplies, the medics treated thousands of prisoners of war as they were marched to death in the Philippines.

This year, official medics sat every few miles along the route with food and water stations.

“We took our own medical supplies and treated our blisters,” said Tavares. “We were ready to treat others, but in the end it is a competition.”

In addition to thousands of other participants, Tavares and her team competed against a group from the 190th ARW’s legal office. The two medical teams were jokingly taunted by the legal office, but performed well.

“We beat them!” announced Tavares. “We beat them by an hour and a half!”

“We passed the JAG (Judge Advocate General) at the seven-mile marker,” said 1st Lt. Eric Easey, a member of the Medical Group, who marched carrying 35 pounds of sand on a “heavy” team.

“I’m pretty sure they were on steroids,” joked Lt. Col. Jared Maag, Air Force JAG. “We’ll be filing a writ to get them tested.”

Both of the medical teams placed within the top finishers of their categories.

All of the participants found the march to be a tremendous personal challenge. In addition to being a physical and mental accomplishment, completing the course was also a tribute to the military members who served before them. Maag was inspired to march for his uncle, who was taken as a World War II prisoner of war in the same region of the Pacific.

“I was going to crawl to the end if I had to or be carried out on a helicopter,” he said.

As they crossed the finish line, several Bataan Death March survivors, men well into their 90s, stood cheering for them.



Service members and civilians from all walks of life come together at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., March 17 to test their mettle in the 24th annual Bataan Memorial Death March. (Courtesy photo)

Battery B takes first place for National Guard Heavy Teams



2nd Lt. Anthony Henely, Spc. Andrew Matthews, Spc. Bryan Callaway, Spc. Patrick Hill and Spc. Doug Martin, members of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, pause for a photo at the 26-mile marker of the 24th annual Bataan Memorial Death March outside of White Sands Missile Range, N.M., March 17. The team took first place in the National Guard Heavy team category with a time of 8 hours, 41 minutes and 13 seconds, followed by team “Kansas Coyote Heavy” in third place with 9 hours, 13 minutes and 15 seconds. (Courtesy photo)

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an Hour™

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# Fighting Jayhawks support presidential inauguration

**By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy and Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs**  
**184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**  
Thirteen members of the 184th Force Sustainment Flight left for Washington, D.C., Jan. 16 to provide services support to the 57th presidential inauguration. The Kansas Airmen provided support while serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to approximately 1,500 Army and Air National Guardsmen.

Many of the Guardsmen the 184th supported were serving as security personnel in the district and along the parade route during the inauguration ceremony. Upon arrival at Joint Base Andrews, the team unloaded pallets of supplies and tested the equipment. The personnel then went to Wilkinson Elementary School where they teamed up with the food services personnel from Arizona, New York and Pennsylvania.

The school served as living quarters for the Kansas and Pennsylvania Guardsmen, as well as the dining hall for many troops in the area.

The task seemed difficult at times, forcing the team to overcome many challenges throughout the week.

“The school where we were staged at had limited equipment, which meant we had to be creative in heating water and, at times, some of the food,” said Master Sgt. Marla Harris. “As expected, it was a necessity to have hot coffee available most of the time.”

The different units took turns preparing, serving and cleaning for each meal. The average work day lasted 15 to 18 hours.

“The number of Guardsmen that we were supporting was a challenge at times since their mission took them out at various times, and they rarely knew when they would be back,” said Chief Master Sgt. Carolyn Crabb. “This made it difficult to determine how much food to prepare for each meal, but the 184th Services always

managed to get it right.”  
The units worked effectively as a team while serving a total of 8,207 meals in a four-day period.  
“An exciting opportunity for our team was the chance to work in a joint environment with 10 Army Guard food service members,” said Crabb. “Our teams learned food prep techniques from each other, providing a different perspective for both branches of service.”  
The assignment also presented an excellent learning experience for new Airmen assigned to the unit.  
“This is a great simulated deployment and an opportunity to develop camaraderie with other services units from across America,” said Airman Clyde Samilton.



**Master Sgt. Janet Probst, a service team member of the 184th Force Sustainment Flight, helps dispense truckloads of water that was later given to Soldiers and Airmen supporting the presidential inauguration ceremony in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**



**Airman Clyde Samilton, a service team member of the 184th Force Sustainment Flight, ensures proper assembly of equipment before meal preparation began for Soldiers and Airmen supporting the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**



**Senior Airman Abby Smith, a service team member of the 184th Force Sustainment Flight, cooks food for Soldiers and Airmen supporting the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**

## 284th Air Support Operations Squadron awarded Combat Action Medal

**By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy**  
**184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**  
Four Airmen assigned to the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron were awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal during a wing-wide commander’s call Feb. 9. The medals were earned during a recent deployment in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 248th ASOS is a ground combat unit consisting of personnel who specialize in coordinating close air support, or CAS. While serving in combat zones, the unit often travels outside of defensive perimeters to conduct missions.

During multiple missions, the squadron came under fire and engaged directly with enemy combatants. The unit responded each time with lethal force.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, the criteria for receiving the medal for ground missions require personnel to deliberately go outside the defended perimeter to conduct official duties and come under enemy attack by lethal weapons while performing those duties. The enemy actions must also put the personnel at risk of grave danger.

**Lt. Col. Gary Nash**  
While out on a mission, Lt. Col. Gary Nash assisted a joint terminal attack controller, providing mounted over watch and support by fire during a key meeting with a local tribal leader. Minutes after arriving at the meeting site, Nash and his team came under fire from insurgents. The team took defensive positions with their armored vehicles and returned fire. After the fire fight, which lasted nearly five minutes, Nash and his team scanned the area for the next three hours until the engagement was complete. On the return trip to the combat outpost their convoy came under heavy attack from insurgents. Nash and his team maneuvered their

vehicles to a defensive position and returned fire. The JTAC requested close air support and successfully talked the responding aircraft to the area where Nash and the team were taking fire. The aircraft released a single “smart bomb,” resulting in the insurgents breaking contact. While doing damage assessment, Nash and the team came under fire again. A supporting company immediately chose to go after the insurgents. Nash and the team pursued after the insurgents until the supporting company called it off for lack of cover and the over watch was no longer in sight of the friendly force.

**Tech. Sgt. Francisco Galindo**  
While on deployment, Tech. Sgt. Francisco Galindo served as a JTAC for an infantry battalion. Galindo accompanied a dismounted

patrol with Afghanistan National Army troops to provide overwatch and CAS coverage for security force assistance operations. That patrol came under fire from insurgents. Galindo saw one of the enemy positions and began to engage with his rifle. Working through his radio operator maintainer and driver, “troops in contact” was declared. Because aircraft were 30 minutes away, Galindo called in a fire mission from nearby mortar systems. The six surface-to-surface rounds allowed the platoon to break contact with the enemy. Once the aircraft checked on station, Galindo used them to provide armed over watch as they returned to the outpost. Galindo’s effective use of surface-to-surface fire missions and airpower provided safe travel for the patrol to complete the mission.



**Lt. Col. Gary Nash (center), commander of the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, is awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal for his actions while recently deployed to southwest Asia. Presenting the medals were Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli (right), the adjutant general of Kansas and Col. J.J. Hernandez, commander of the 184th Intelligence Wing. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs)**

**Tech. Sgt. Justin Stephens**  
While on deployment, Tech. Sgt. Justin Stephens was in direct and close contact with the enemy while supporting an operation outside his operating base as part of the tactical air patrol party for an infantry battalion. Stephens came under fire from three to four insurgents, and returned fire with a .50-caliber machine gun and grenade launcher. Mortars were fired to suppress the enemy, and Stephens called in aircraft to suppress enemy fire. Later, the observation point began receiving machine gun fire, and Stephens returned fire. Enemy fire was suppressed and the team kept observing the enemy position until the battle ended.

**Senior Airman Andrew Jundt**  
As a tactical air command and control journeyman, Senior Airman Andrew Jundt was in an overwatch observation point in support of operations with another unit. The observation point fell under heavy, direct enemy fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers, receiving several mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenade rounds, and heavy small arms fire. Jundt took cover, with multiple small arms rounds hitting less than 30 feet from his position, and several mortar and RPG rounds striking approximately 200 feet away. He immediately set up a satellite communications link to pass vital information that they were now in contact with enemy troops. Jundt moved with his JTAC to a better vantage point to facilitate acquiring targeting data. With small arms rounds hitting less than two feet away, Jundt used a laser range finder and ground penetrating radar to assist with targeting information while his JTAC was conducting CAS check-in. Enemy fighters broke contact and sight of the enemy was lost. Jundt’s actions were vital in thwarting any further enemy action and to the protection of U.S. and Afghan National Security Forces personnel.



# 731st Transportation Company works on weapons proficiency

**By Spc. Melissa Herren**  
**731st Transportation Company UPAR**

Because the pursuit of tactical proficiency never ends, the 731st Transportation Company took full advantage of the opportunity April 6 to conduct individual weapons qualification. The desire to achieve higher unit proficiency is a yearly goal and is also why 89 Soldiers were preparing before sunrise for an entire day of firing and a night qualification course.

Company commander Capt. Jay Simecka said, “It isn’t simply that they all are required to do this; these Soldiers are eager to shoot and always want more of it. Whatever training it is that we do, you want Soldiers to care about it.”

“What we, as leaders, emphasize, focus on and make important becomes important to them,” Simecka said.

With overall unit strength building monthly, the capacity to provide more non-commissioned officers responsibilities as range officer-in-charge, range safety officer and lane safeties were available, providing these NCOs with leadership roles that build technical and tactical proficiency and allow

Soldiers some personal and professional growth.

The unit currently has three platoon leaders assigned to the company. Each lieutenant was tasked with running a particular range at various times throughout the training day. Each received quality hands-on training as their colleagues spent time in the range tower in a command and control capacity or supervising range details. With planning and coordination for this operation starting several months out, the platoon leaders acquired various training opportunities, including creating the operation order, making the arrangements for transportation requests, ammunition and weapons draws, and support from range control.

Rifle qualification was challenging this year due to the adjustments that had to be made because of weather conditions and familiarizing Soldiers with the Advanced Combat Optical Gun sights, which many of them were using for the first time. Concurrent to the zero and qualification ranges, Soldiers conducted additional weapon familiarization drills using the M240B machine guns.

By the end of the day, the 731st expended more than 11,000 rounds between the zero and qualification ranges, including day and night fire.



**Sgt. Levi Turner, a member of Detachment 1, 731st Transportation Company, Liberal, Kan., uses the Advanced Combat Optical Gun sights to aim at automated pop-up targets during the unit’s annual individual weapons qualification in Salina, Kan., April 6. (Photo by Sgt. Timothy Bashford, Detachment 3, 731st Transportation Company)**

# Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer now available at RTS-M

**By Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Gray**  
**Regional Training Site – Maintenance**

The Kansas National Guard’s Regional Training Site – Maintenance located at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan., recently received the Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer, a training device that demonstrates electrical theory and troubleshooting for alternating and direct current. It also allows students to apply electrical theory in practical ways.

Soldiers attending courses at the Regional Training Site – Maintenance will use the Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer to understand a variety of electrical theory. Examples of these theories are Ohms Law, AC voltage, DC voltage and other types of electrical measurements. The Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer uses a step-by-step process that allows Soldiers to either learn at their own pace or at the same rate using a facilitator.

Soldiers, who have recently attended the Utilities Equipment Repairer Advanced Leaders Course, utilized the Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer in their course.

“The BEMT was a great beginner basic tool for understanding electrical theory,” said Staff Sgt. Brad Bailey, 14th Battalion, 95th Division, U.S. Army Reserve. “The Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer broke down some of the more complicated ideas into comprehensible pieces. The step-by-step process was easily followed. I also liked



**Staff Sgt. Bradley Bailey, a member of the 14th Battalion, 95th Division, U.S. Army Reserve, performs a practical exercise of Ohm’s Law on the Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer newly available at the Kansas National Guard’s Regional Training Site - Maintenance at Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Gray, Regional Training Site - Maintenance)**

how diverse the classes were for training, e.g. electrical schematics, Ohm’s Law, trailer wiring and different types of circuitry.”

The Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer has proven to be an effective tool to increase learning on electrical systems. Soldiers appreciate the ability to go through

basic fundamentals and apply those to practical applications. Soldiers that understand how electrical circuitry works become better diagnosticians and will improve overall Army maintenance readiness. The Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer is a tool that will achieve this goal.

“This style of learning allows me to learn in small chunks,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Powell, 3637th Maintenance Company, Springfield, Ill. “The trial and error of going through the lessons helped me understand electricity better. There is a broad range of learning that you are able to accomplish with all the programs that are available. I feel that Basic Electronic Maintenance Trainer should be integrated into all maintenance learning.”

The Kansas Regional Training Institute offers a variety of skills training to Soldiers of all branches of the military, and civilians.

The mission of the Regional Training Site – Maintenance in Kansas is to provide trained maintenance personnel to units in support of current force modernization systems. This is accomplished through the maintenance Military Occupational Specialties training to include but not limited to Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics and its Advanced Leaders Course; Utilities Equipment Repairer and ALC; Allied Trades Specialist and ALC; Wheeled Vehicle Recovery Course, Standard Army Maintenance System – 1 Enhanced Senior Leader Course, Weather Survey, Medic Refresher Course, Truck Driver, Supply Special Course, Army Basic Instructor Course, Combat Life Saver Course, CPR and EMT training for Military and Civilians i.e. Fireman, Police, Medic and Small Group Instructor Training Course.

# 170th Maintenance Company completes Reintegration Training

**By Staff Sgt. Mark W. Reasoner**  
**170th Support Maintenance Company**

The 170th Support Maintenance Company, recently returned from nine months of deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait, completed its Reintegration Training April 6-7.

The unit, composed of two officers, two warrant officers and 72 enlisted personnel, re-entered the Colby, Kan., armory for the weekend, completing 75 personal equipment accountability inspections and post-deployment physical reassessments among other administrative tasks. Some former unit members, eager to see familiar faces returning from the deployment, stopped by to express their appreciation and support to their former comrades in arms and welcomed them back. Other tokens of appreciation and support in the close knit community of approximately 5,400 in northwest Kansas included cases of Girl Scout cookies collected and provided to the unit by Junior Girl Scout Kaitlynn Faber from Troop 10018.

The final actions completing their tour overseas included inventories of all assigned clothing and equipment to determine

accountability and serviceability. Inventories were verified by four personnel from brigade headquarters and assisted by Soldiers that had not deployed with the unit. Obsolete and unserviceable items of equipment were also pulled during the inventory and processed for turn-in.

Other actions completed by the unit included preparation of noncommissioned officer evaluation reports for those noncommissioned officers from other units that were command directed to fill vacancies during the deployment, so that their service to the unit were accurately and completely covered for the NCO while away from their original unit.

At the conclusion of the drill an awards and promotion ceremony was conducted. During the ceremony, 47 Kansas National Guard Service Ribbons were presented, along with 15 Kansas Homeland Defense Service Ribbons. The Kansas National Guard Service Ribbon is awarded to officers and enlisted members of the Kansas National Guard for years of service to the state. The Kansas Homeland Defense Service Ribbon is a one-time award for any member of the Kansas National Guard par-

ticipating in direct support of formal Homeland Security and Homeland Defense activities for at least 30 days after Sept. 11, 2001. Subsequent deployments are simply recognized by an “M” device worn on the

ribbon. Many of those who participated in the deployment have deployed multiple times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation New Dawn.



**With the help of 1st Sgt. Scott Williamson, Capt. Scott Weber, commander of the 170th Support Maintenance Company, pins sergeant rank on five of his unit members as part of their end of tour promotions conducted at the close of the unit’s reintegration training at the Colby armory April 7. (Photo by 1st Lt. David W. Atkins, 170th Support Maintenance Company)**



# Teamwork and a lot of elbow grease keep tank cannons clean

**By Sgt. Thomas Sureau  
Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment UPAR**

All Soldiers are trained to know, use and maintain their equipment. Attention to detail is a cornerstone of training that is stressed to save lives and time and accomplish the mission. With the U.S. military fielding the most sophisticated equipment and weaponry the world has ever known, the Kansas National Guard adheres to this philosophy as well. For the Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, this means cleaning the 120mm smooth bore cannon, the main gun of the M1A1 Abrams tank.

Every Soldier has to clean and maintain a weapon. This task includes disassembly, inspection, cleaning and re-inspection, more cleaning, another inspection, cleaning again and eventually a go ahead from a sergeant indicating the weapon is clean enough to turn back in. The tools for this task are brushes, rags and Cleaner, Lubricant and Protectant, otherwise known as CLP. For cleaning the main gun on an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, these tools are identical...just much bigger.



**(From front to back) Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Clark, Spc. Gary Stone, Spc. Caleb Baranowski and Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins, tank crew members of Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, scrub the 120mm main gun tube of their assigned M1A1 Abrams tanks at the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site depot at Fort Riley, Kan., March 13. (Photo by Sgt. Thomas Sureau, Company C, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment UPAR)**

Four tank crew members of Company C — Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Clark of Blue Springs, Mo., Staff Sgt. Nelson Perkins of Belton, Mo., Spc. Gary Stone of Independence, Kan., and Spc. Caleb Baranowski of Raymore, Mo. — spent four days at Fort Riley, Kan., in mid-March maintaining and cleaning the main guns of their company’s Abrams tanks.

Company D had its turn in April, spending two days at Fort Riley performing the same tasks on their tanks.

With the approach of annual training, in addition to upcoming live-fire exercises – the first opportunity in four years that the company will be able to conduct live-fire as a unit – Clark said the cleaning allows crews to inspect the bore of the main gun and ensure the tanks are safe to fire.

“There are certain procedures necessary in order to prepare for gunnery this summer,” said Clark, noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Because the tanks are at Fort Riley and Company C drills in Lenexa, Kan., this was an occasion for Perkins to better prepare the company, and as a new tank commander, to gain more experience.

“This is a task you don’t have the opportunity to do very often,” said Perkins.

Cleaning the main gun is a relatively simple task, albeit a physically demanding one. The cleaning rod is a four-section aluminum pole measuring roughly 23 feet. Attached to the end is a bell of brass bristles housed in a hard plastic casing. There are two of these brushes, one for wet brushing in which CLP is used and one for dry brushing. As with a rifle or pistol, this rod must be inserted the length of the barrel and the brush manipulated, allowing carbon buildup to be removed with rags pushed the length of the barrel. Due to the size of the main gun bore and the tight tolerance necessary to ensure the brushes and rags remove residue, four or five Soldiers must muscle the brushes and rags through the cleaning process.

For Baranowski, building muscles is a by-product of main gun maintenance.

“I came out for an opportunity to learn more about my Military Occupational Specialty,” said Baranowski. “I would like to go active duty and I want to be prepared.”

Inspection is a critical follow-up to the cleaning process. Fort Riley’s Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site provides this service through the expertise of Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Beougher of Manhattan, Kan.,

an armament repair supervisor at MATES. Using an M3 bore scope device, Beougher verifies there are no cracks and pits in the chrome lining of the main gun.

“This needs to be done within 180 days of firing,” said Beougher.

The M3 bore scope device is a long sectional rod with a rotating mirror and light, and an eyepiece at the end that allows the inspecting Soldier to see every inch of the cannon’s bore. This final inspection sent Company C’s Soldiers back to the cleaning rods more than a few times, an experience common to many Soldiers.

With four Soldiers to a tank, and a tank company consisting of 80-250 personnel, Company C’s Soldiers were faced with a monumental task. Although four days was not enough to clean and inspect each of the company’s tanks, the sergeants and specialists of Company C managed to assess the status of each tank and provide information to their command. This information allows for structuring future visits to tanks at Fort Riley in preparation for this summer’s annual training. With each tank’s bore cleaned and ready for gunnery, Company C can focus their efforts on crew interaction during these exercises and be assured that each tank is safe to use.

# Education benefit updates

**By Capt. Matt Hapke  
Education Services Officer**

Federal Tuition Assistance was suspended for several weeks this spring. For the remainder of FY2013 (April 10 to Oct. 1, 2013), FTA is available for Army National Guardsmen. The current limits remain unchanged at \$250 per semester/hour, with an annual limit of \$4,500. We do not have any information on any changes that may be made to the program for the next fiscal year. However it is important to maximize this benefit while it is available at its current funding levels. This means getting into an education program and taking classes this summer and fall. Also, make sure you keep checking your AKO email account as we will send out messages when new developments arise with this program. Most importantly, get your FTA requests in early at [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com), up to 60 days prior to the class start date. This program is first-come, first-served so don’t wait until the last minute!

**Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Program**

State Tuition Assistance is a program that is available to all Army and Air National Guardsmen in Kansas. This program will pay up to 100 percent of tuition for enlisted Soldiers and Airmen with less than 20 years in service who are working towards a bachelor’s or lower degree at a Kansas Board of Regents school (the list of schools is on the application). This program’s funding is set prior to the applications received. Kansas Board of Regents will look at all applications and determine a funding level.

It is important to get your application in early, and to anticipate that your entire tuition bill may not be covered. Remember, anyone using this program must serve an additional three months at the end of their current contract for each semester you use the program, and it cannot be used in the summer. Information on this program can be found at [www.kansasregents.org/scholarships\\_and\\_grants](http://www.kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants).



**Capt. Matt Hapke**

**GI Bill Programs**

There are a lot of GI Bill programs, but many people are using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. If you are looking to help finance your children’s or spouse’s education plans, you can transfer this GI Bill. However, you will have to serve four years from the date of the transfer. If you became retirement-eligible between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2012, you may not need to serve the entire four years, or any time at all, but you must transfer your benefits before Aug. 1, 2013. This can be done at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

At this time, VA benefits have not been discussed as changing at our level. These are considered entitlements, not benefits, and are not administered by the Department of Defense. Please contact our office to find out which program(s) you qualify for and how they work or go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for more information.

**General Information**

There are many education assistance programs available. It is important to explore all of these programs to ensure you are getting the most assistance possible.

An excellent place to find information and links to all of the programs noted above, and many others, is the Kansas National Guard Education Services website, [www.kansastag.gov/nguard.asp?pageID=497](http://www.kansastag.gov/nguard.asp?pageID=497)

The Kansas Board of Regents has many scholarships and grants that may apply to you or your family depending on the education programs they are enrolled in. Private organizations, such as the American Legion, VFW, local churches, or other organizations, may also have scholarships available.

One of the most important steps to take as a student is to fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). There are many government programs available depending on your income level and other factors. This should be an important first step when deciding how to pay for college.

As always the entire staff of the Education Services Office is available to assist you as you move forward. We will continue to update you with changes. Please feel free to give us a call at 785-274-1081 or visit our webpage for more information.

# Bags fly free with Detachment 37

**By Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Perkins  
Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift**

Kansas Army Guard’s best kept secret is Detachment 37, Operational Support Airlift, headquartered at Forbes Field, Topeka. Many Soldiers think it’s the command staffs’ aircraft or they don’t have a clue on how to access the aircraft.

The Hawker Beechcraft King Air 200, better known in the military world as a C-12, is one of many throughout the United States. There are approximately 50 OSA detachments and four regional flight centers with aircraft throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Its mission is transportation of personnel and cargo throughout the United States. If you are on official military travel to a conference, school or on official military business, the detachment can help get you there. The C-12 can carry up to seven people without bags or a combination of bags, passengers and cargo.

The benefits are no cost to a Soldier’s unit or to the state for air travel, no driving to Kansas City or Wichita to catch a plane, no dealing with Transportation Security Administration, and bags fly free. In most cases the plane will come to the closest approved airport and travel times are flexible.

To request transportation, fill out a DD Form 2768 (Military Air Passenger/Cargo Request) and email it to Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Perkins at [shawn.a.perkins.mil@mail.mil](mailto:shawn.a.perkins.mil@mail.mil) or call for more information at 785-861-3830.





# 73rd Civil Support Team conducts change of command ceremony

**By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office**

Maj. Robert Cole accepted command of the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) from Lt. Col. Dirk Christian during a change of command ceremony April 26. The ceremony took place at the Civil Support Team Building at Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan.

“I look forward to the challenge of leading this mission,” said Cole. “I want to thank the unit and Lieutenant Colonel Christian for establishing a position of great success. This is an outstanding organization, perhaps the finest in the Kansas National Guard, and you all have made it that. It is an honor and privilege to walk into this.”

“I want to sincerely congratulate Major Cole. I am sure you will lead the team to new heights and maintain the tradition of excellence since the team has been born,” said Christian. “I have truly been blessed for the last three years. I am going to miss you and this assignment. Thank you for your friendship and for your mentorship.”

The 73rd CST is a 22-person team of highly-trained Kansas Army and Air National Guard personnel who support local, state and federal agencies responding to an incident involving weapons of mass destruction. The 73rd CST is charged with providing support to civil authorities at any domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incident site by identifying agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response



**Lt. Col. Dirk Christian, outgoing commander of the 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), addresses his troops one last time during a change of command ceremony April 26, thanking them for helping make his command time significant. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)**

measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support. It has the capability to respond to two simultaneous events and conduct 24-hour operations.

The team maintains the ability to deploy to an incident within three hours; provide timely on-site analysis and presumptive identification of chemical, biological, radio-

logical and nuclear agents; determine the extent and persistence of contamination and make recommendations to ensure operational and public safety. Since its inception, the role of the CST has broadened to include response to the release of any chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents and high-yield explosives, regardless of origin,

whether intentional or accidental, as well as response to natural and manmade disasters.

**Maj. Robert Cole**

Maj. Robert Cole is currently a resident student at Command and General Staff Officer College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Cole was directly appointed as a first lieutenant in the Kansas Army National Guard and federally-recognized as a U.S. Army Reserve officer April 3, 2003. After completion of the Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course, Cole was assigned as a trial counsel with Headquarters, 35th Infantry Division. Cole served as both the chief defense counsel for the Kansas Army National Guard and the operational law chief at 35th Infantry Division from 2003 until 2007.

In September 2005 he deployed to Louisiana as the command judge advocate for 35th Infantry Division’s Task Force Santa Fe in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In April and May 2006, Cole served as the acting chief of legal assistance at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Cole again deployed to Louisiana in 2008 to serve as the deputy staff judge advocate for the Louisiana National Guard’s Task Force Pelican in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav.

Cole was mobilized from July 2009 to September 2010 to serve as the legal advisor to the 35th Infantry Division’s Domestic All-Hazards Response Team – West Coordination Cell. He also completed the Judge Advocate Officer Advanced Course

**(Continued on Page 17)**

## Windham named assistant division commander at 35th Infantry Division

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren, commander of the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., announced Col. Robert Windham has been selected to become the assistant division commander.

During his career, Windham, Junction City, has served as the Joint Forces Headquarters deputy chief of staff for Logistics; commander, Task Force Hurricane (Operation Iraqi Freedom); deputy commander, 130th Field Artillery Brigade; and deputy commander, Task Force Tornado (Operation Iraqi Freedom). His most recent position was commander of the



**Col. Robert Windham**

Kansas National Guard’s 235th Regiment in Salina. He has also served in various command and staff positions at the battalion and battery level.

Windham is a 1986 graduate of the Officer Candidate School at the Kansas Military Academy. His military education includes the Communications – Electronics Staff Officer Course at Fort Sill, Okla.; Signal Officer Basic and Advanced Courses at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth; the Joint Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Staff and Operations Course at the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.; and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. He also attended the Chief of Staff of the Army’s Senior Leader Seminar.

Windham’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf

clusters, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the 1st Cavalry Division Order of the Combat Spur.

His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in management and human resources, a Master of Arts degree in telecommunications management, and a Master of Arts degree in strategic studies. He has attended Mid-America Nazarene University, the University of Kansas and Webster University. He is a graduate of Leavenworth High School, Leavenworth, Kan.

In his civilian job, Windham serves as the director of the Network Enterprise Center, Fort Riley, Kan. His formal civilian education includes graduation from the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va.

The 35th Infantry Division is comprised of Soldiers from the Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska Army National Guard. In the last year, it has participated in training in Korea, Germany and Fort Hood, Texas. Elements of the division have deployed to the Balkans and members have served throughout the world in each theater of operation since the division was reactivated in 1985.

## 102nd History Detachment receives Bronze Star Medals



**Navy Capt. Teresa Fairbanks (left), the U.S. Forces - Afghanistan command historian, presents Master Sgt. Lyle Babcock (right), a member of the 102nd Military History Detachment with a Bronze Star April 25. Maj. Jeffrey Crysler, unit commander, and Staff Sgt. Kelly Perry, along with Babcock each received a Bronze Star for their exceptional service while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the nine-month deployment, the 102nd MHD was the lead organization for detailing operational efforts of all USFOR-A. The 102nd MHD was everywhere the Soldiers were, detailing their operational actions and documenting the stories of the courageous Soldiers that received valor awards for their heroic actions. The 102nd MHD has achieved tremendous success that will leave a lasting impact on the U.S. Army History Program. (Courtesy photo)**

## Kansas National Guard’s State Family Program leads DoD pilot

**Continued from Page 1**

looking to maintain its credibility to the standards of their counterpart on the active duty component.”

Earlier this year the Office of the Secretary of Defense offered the National Guard Bureau to fund one accreditation as a trial. Of the few states interested, Kansas was ultimately chosen.

Nesbitt proactively worked to secure the slot for Kansas by going to Child and Youth Services in neighboring military communi-

ties that have gone through a similar process. After learning what it would take, along with her experience in previous jobs where she has helped receive national accreditation, Nesbitt and her team were still up for the challenge.

“This program will help show what a great job the reserve component side does in this state to take care of service members and their families,” said Nesbitt. “It’s something we need to show to get credit for what we are already doing.”

## Advanced Turbine Engine

**Continued from Page 1**

putting federal dollars to work in the state by procuring parts from Kansas manufacturing companies including Topeka Foundry in Topeka, Exline Incorporated in Salina, Glendo Corporation in Emporia, and Oswald Manufacturing in Herrington.

The ATEAM’s customers include the National Guard Bureau and Tank Automotive Command. The facility supports TACOM’s Foreign Military Sales Program by rebuilding engines and transmissions for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The ATEAM is also partnered with Army Material Command as an AGT1500 turbine engine provider.

The ATEAM also rebuilds the tank’s X1100-3B cross-drive tank transmission and Full Up Power Packs, exceeding National Maintenance Work Requirement standards. It is the second year of a multi-year program in which they produce FUPPs (engines and transmissions combined) for the Lima, Ohio, tank plant.

In addition to manufacturing, the ATEAM also provides on-site training and field service repair work for National Guard tank units across the country. This cost-effective service substantially reduces sustainment costs while improving equipment readiness.



# Fishing tournament honors fallen Kansas National Guardsmen

By Capt. Benjamin Gruver  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It is said a bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work. For the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery fishing has become the perfect way to honor the loss of fallen Soldiers from the Kansas National Guard as they hosted the Kansas Veteran’s Memorial Bass Tournament April 27.

Fishermen gathered from across the state for the tournament in its ninth year at the Coffey County Lake near the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington, Kan.

The event was started by the 2nd Bn., 130th FA in 2005 after the unit lost two of its own Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Clint Wisdom and Sgt. Don Clary, in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 8, 2004, according to Sgt. 1st Class David Wellman, the unit’s logistics non-commissioned officer in charge.

“Sergeant Wisdom was a huge fisherman and that is actually where it all started from,” said Wellman. “The 2nd, 130th has been running it and keeping it going ever since.”

The free and open to the public event is now intended to honor the 10 Kansas

Guardsmen who’ve died in Operations Enduring Freedom and Operations Iraqi Freedom.

Participating teams of four started out on the water as early as sunrise to fish for white bass and both large and small mouth bass. No hybrid wiper bass were allowed to qualify as a part of the five fish needed to weigh in for the tournament.

While many fishermen were fishing off the docks, participating teams were required to have a boat and follow all state fishing regulations.

Changes to regulations this year proved problematic for many teams as size limits on small and large mouth bass changed. In fact, it proved costly for Kansas Air National Guard Maj. Warner White, 184th Intelligence Wing, who caught a nice size small mouth bass.

“It was only three-quarters of an inch too short,” said White, who explained he caught the fish after his teammate encouraged him to troll along a little island. “I almost won the tournament with that one.”

Catching fish and winning the tourna-



Fishermen turn in their catch during the ninth annual Kansas Veteran’s Memorial Bass Tournament hosted by the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery of the Kansas Army National Guard to honor the memory of fallen servicemen at the Coffey County Lake in Burlington, Kan., April 27, 2013. (Photo by Capt. Benjamin Gruver, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

ment is irrelevant, according to White, explaining he comes to the tournament to honor the fallen Soldiers.

“If for nothing else, I’m coming for them every year, whether I win or lose,” said White. “One year I came here I didn’t even catch one fish.”

“It’s more about the camaraderie and the time you get to spend with your friends.”

This year’s winning team included Mike Hare, Jim Newman, Jonathan Schliffke and Frank Gray who totaled more than 12 pounds of fish. The team struggled from the start as the motor of their boat, ironically named the SS Minnow, wouldn’t start up.

“Mike kept cranking it and it finally

turned over,” said Schliffke. “Before you knew it we were buzzing along.”

Once the team found the warm part of the lake they were able to reel in quite a few fish, learning from past experience not to just toss fish back in the water for being too small.

For the team it was a surprise for them to win in only their second showing in the tournament, but like many of the others it was not so much about the fishing as it was about remembering fallen comrades.

“For us to be able to come home from a war like that and be able to participate in this it is a good feeling to honor them,” said Hare, who deployed with both Wisdom and Clary in Iraq. “We enjoyed it.”

## 2013 Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth W. Disney Food Service Excellence Award

It is my distinct pleasure to inform you that the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Force Support Squadron, Sustainment Services Flight was selected as the recipient for the 2013 Air National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth W. Disney Food Service Excellence Award and will be recognized during the 2013 Air Force John L. Hennessy Trophy presentation. The 190th Sustainment Services Flight’s outstanding contributions make them most deserving of this award.

Additionally, Tech. Sgt. Denielle Peavler, of the 190th Force Support Squadron, Sustainment Services Flight was selected as a Hennessy Travelers Association Award of Excellence winner and will be recognized at the 2013 Hennessy/Hill Program in Chicago. As an Award of Excellence winner, Peavler will attend the Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence at The Culinary Institute of America. Greystone campus. St. Helena, Calif., later this year, representing the Air National Guard.

Please pass on my personal congratulations to the 190th Sustainment Services Flight and Peavler. Their selection for these prestigious awards reflects great credit upon themselves, the state of Kansas, and the Air National Guard. I wish them the best of luck in the coming year.



Tech. Sgt.  
Denielle Peavler

MARY BURRUS, Colonel, USAF  
Director, Manpower, Personnel and Services

## Evaluation addresses issue of toxic leadership style in military

Continued from Page 5

It allows blind feedback from superiors, peers and subordinates who have an opportunity to answer a survey and give candid comments on your leadership abilities. A “coach” is available to review your results with you and provide mentoring. This program is an opportunity to take a look at your leadership and change course if you are headed down a path of toxic leadership.

The Kansas National Guard has been ahead of the curve on this issue and devel-

oped TAG Policy #32, Workplace Bullying in 2010. It supports a zero tolerance for behavior that harms, intimidates, offends, degrades or humiliates Soldiers, Airmen or Non-Dual Status Employees. Since the development of this policy, offenses have been investigated and disciplinary actions have been taken to correct inappropriate conduct. The TAG’s policy shows that the Kansas National Guard supports a workplace climate of respect up and down the chain of command.

## Guardsmen return from week-long deployment to Armenia

Continued from Page 1

The Kansas National Guard has been partnered with the Republic of Armenia since 2003 under the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program.

“This event is part of a successful broader engagement between the Kansas National Guard, European Command and the Armenian Ministry of Defense to modernize and equip the Armenian Humanitarian Demining Center,” said Lt.

Col. Brent Salmans, State Partnership Program coordinator for the Kansas National Guard.

“In June, we will celebrate our tenth year of this strong and valuable partnership,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaanelli, Kansas adjutant general. “We are looking forward to a number of these types of exchanges between Kansas and Armenia this year and value the opportunity to continue to learn from and share with Armenia.”

### Retired? Keep up with us by email

In an effort to keep our retirees better informed on what is happening in the Adjutant General’s Department, the Public Affairs Office has put together an e-mail distribution list. If you would like to be added to the list please e-mail your request to Jane Welch at [jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil).

Also if you are a retired Guardsmen and are not receiving a free copy of the Plains Guardian at your home or your address has changed, please contact Jane Welch at the Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or [jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:jane.e.welch1.nfg@mail.mil) to be added to the mailing list.



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# Kansas National Guard associations conduct Awards banquet honors Kansas National Guardsmen,

**By Spc. Robert I. Havens**  
**105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The National Guard Association of Kansas, Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard and State Family Program held their annual awards banquet on April 13 to recognize the hard work and dedication of members of the Kansas National Guard.

The general assembly ended on a high note with members of the NGAKS convention meeting for the banquet. Members who had extraordinary contribution where recognized after a dinner and social hour.

“It is important to recognize the contributions of members of the Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, Kansas

National Guard adjutant general.

“It’s an honor to be recognized in such a public forum,” said Tammy Edington, recognized for her efforts with family programs. “I want to make a difference in the Guard.”

The awardees were:

- Tech. Sgt. Glenn King, 190th Air Refueling Wing, National Guard Airman of the year
- Capt. Zachary Rolf, 69th Troop Command, National Guard Army Company Grade Officer
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Hammon, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, National Guard War-rant Officer of the Year



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general, presents the Kansas Army National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year award to Capt. Zachary Rolf. Rolf was one of several persons honored at an awards banquet April 13. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

- Maj. Lenard Leivan, administrative officer, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, for his work on behalf of the Kansas National Guard Association of Kansas
- Capt. Kendrea Shingleton, battalion training officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Com-pany, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, for her hard work in service of the Kansas Guard Association of Kansas
- Col. Derek Rogers, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing’s mission support group, was recognized for his efforts in support of the National Guard Association of Kansas
- 170th Maintenance Company, State Family Program Newsletter of the Year
- Sgt. 1st Class Tim



Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, chairman of the board, National Guard Association of Kansas, addresses the audience attending the awards banquet at the annual joint meeting of the Kansas National Guard Association of Kansas, Enlisted Association of the National Guard and State Family Program in Manhattan, Kan., April 13. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

- Buchorn, State Family Program “Army Volunteer of the Year”
  - Staff Sgt. Zach Whitener, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Most Outstanding Army Unit Family Readiness Program
  - 190th Maintenance Group, Most Outstanding Air Unit Family Readiness Program
  - Naomi Henry, State Family Program Army Youth of the Year
  - Chad Grey, State Family Program Air Youth of the Year
  - Alonda Udell, State Family Program Army Civilian Volunteer of the Year
- Krieger, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Sgt. 1st Class Tim
  - Brenda Buttler, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Buttel, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Green, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Hubbard, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - nat, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Emily L., State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Wendy J., State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - Rowe, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - son, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”
  - sica Wilk, State Family Program “Air Volunteer of the Year”

## Annual golf tournament a fun time for all

**By Spc. Anna Laurin**  
**105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas hosted its annual golf tournament at Stagg Hill Golf Course, Manhattan, Kan., April 12. The tournament was held in conjunction with the Kansas National Guard 2013 Joint Conference.

“Vendors, anyone in the Kansas Guard, or civilians who could play were invited,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Wassenberg, tournament organizer. “We have been doing a golf tournament for the past eight years wherever the conference is. We get a golf course close and work with them to set up the tournament.”

The golf tournament allowed Guardsmen and families to get together, relax, compete, and enjoy the outdoors.

“There are a lot of people in the Guard who like to golf, and we usually get some pretty good vendor support,” said Wassenberg. “We had four golf-hole sponsors this year and are going to try to get more next year.”

The vendors also donated raffle prizes and gifts for the individual winners.

Prizes were given out for individual accomplishments on the golf course. Doug Devin received a golf club head cover for the longest putt, Col. Roger Murdock received a putter for the longest drive, and retired Col. Joe Rose received a box of golf balls for the closest to the pin.



A golfer blasts his ball out of the rough at the Stagg Hill Golf Course in Manhattan, Kan., during the annual golf tournament held in conjunction with the Kansas National Guard 2013 Joint Conference. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Do the m



Craig Hillier, motivational youth speaker, talks with the children about overcoming the differences we see in others and ourselves at the National Guard Association of Kansas Symposium in Manhattan April 11. He compared differences in fractions, but when the fractions add up or the people come together, they make a whole. (Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



# ct annual joint conference in Manhattan

## , volunteers



ard Association of the United States, addresses  
t conference of the National Guard Association  
ate Family Program at the Hilton Garden Inn  
s, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

sten Stoudt, State Family Program Air Civilian  
unteer of the Year

. 1st Class David Edington and wife, Tammy,  
te Family Program Army Family of the Year.

nter awards also went to Rebecca Aguirre,  
Bernard, Jacob Brown, Jared Brown, Rhonda  
Gail Cheetham, Erin Cobb, Mary Crabb, Sawyer  
Kayla Guilfoyle, Bridget Haybarker, Adrienne  
d, Denise Humphrey, Francis Kline, Janet Kristi-  
itney Kristinat, Laura Krom, Joseph Kracht,  
ockhart, Robine Lunkwitz, Mallory McGrann,  
Monteith, Melissa Moon, Linda Nussbaum, Terri  
Theresa Schmitt, Kassidy Seaba, Nicole Thomp-  
ley Urban, Tina Wahweotten, Caryn Welch, Jes-  
liams, Allison Wheeler and Reed Wheeler

## math



en of Kansas National Guard service members  
es at the Kansas National Guard State Youth  
n humans to denominators in number frac-  
er, they all have a common denominator.  
(achment)

## President’s Run an alternative to golf, skeet

By Spc. Robert I. Havens  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The second annual National Guard Asso-  
ciation of Kansas’ President’s Run was  
held April 12, 2013 outside the Hilton Gar-  
den Inn in Manhattan, Kan.

“Events like this allow us to build cama-  
raderie amongst peers and emphasize living

a healthy lifestyle with each other,” said Col.  
Mike Erwin, event organizer. “This gives  
people an alternate event to participate in  
that is not golf or skeet shooting.”

The President’s Run, that has already  
more than tripled in size, had a new class  
of participants this year. Maj. Jesse Sojka  
brought his son, Riley, to run with him.

“I decided to take the day with my son and  
come run as a team,” said Sojka. “This is a  
good bonding experience and allows me to  
encourage lifetime fitness with my son.”

Riley would end the race fourth overall.  
Members of the Fun Run enjoyed a sce-  
nic route along the Manhattan, Kan., river  
trails.



Soldiers, Airmen and civilians joined together for the second annual President’s Run held in conjunction with the Kansas Na-  
tional Guard 2013 Joint Conference in April. (Photo by Spc. Robert I. Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## TAG team takes first in Sporting Clays event



Retired Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus (second from the left) presents first-place plaques to Maj. Gen. Lee Tafari, the adjutant general; Capt. Jeremy Jackson and Lt. Col. Matt Olen as the winning team in the 2013 Sporting Clays skeet shoot. Tafari’s son Nick was also a member of the team. The event is held annually in conjunction with the joint state conference of the National Guard Association of Kansas, Enlisted Association of the Kansas National Guard and State Family Program.





# Emergency responders play out full-scale exercise in Topeka

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

A tornado hit the southwest part of Topeka at 6:30 a.m. leaving behind extensive damage. Or so the exercise read for more than 100 emergency response personnel who gathered in Topeka, Kan., to put their training to use at a two-day full-scale disaster response exercise March 26-27.

Living in the heart of tornado alley requires first responders to be ready at a moment's notice.

The exercise of a large tornado sweeping across Topeka, tested the Northeast Kansas Regional County plans, and took place at several locations around the capital city. The exercise tested first responders with Kansas Task Force 2 on a variety of tasks.

"This exercise brought together emergency personnel from different backgrounds to practice their plans and skills for responding to a real event," said Keith Jeffers, training and exercise specialist with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "By using the state of Kansas Exercise Program, we are able to capture information to improve the plans and procedures for each of the agencies that are involved."

The Kansas Urban Search and Rescue program provides highly specialized technical rescue services to local jurisdictions that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters. Kansas Task Force 2 is one of seven geographically-organized teams in the state that can assist in locating and rescuing trapped victims. Task Force 2, the Northeast Homeland Security Regional response team, is comprised of firefighters from Lawrence Fire Department,



Members of the Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team gather for a briefing at their Staging and Command site at the Lake Shawnee camping area during a full-scale exercise of a tornado that notionally hit southwest Topeka, Kan, March 26. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

ment, Topeka Fire Department, Mission Township Fire Department, Pottawatomie Tribal Fire Department, Fort Riley Fire Department and Manhattan Fire Department. Members of the task forces are trained in the disciplines of structural collapse, rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue and wide-area search.

"Classroom training is fine and small exercises help with developing skills, but a large-scale exercise like this will really allow the task force to test those skills to the fullest," said Mission Township Fire Chief Forrest Walter.

During the event, a Staging and Command area was set up at the Lake Shawnee camping area. The Northeast Kansas Incident Management Team had approximately 27 persons responding at the command post along with the Shawnee County Emergency Management Command trailer.

"This exercise is part of our Homeland Security region from the northeast," said Alan Radcliffe, incident commander of the Northeast Kansas IMT. "This tests the ability of our Incident Management Teams, and

our search and rescue teams that we have funded for the last five or six years with Homeland Security funds. This allows us to bring in our equipment and personnel and test them. This will put their training to use."

Kansas Task Force 2 had approximately 60 personnel responding each day, including evaluators and safety officers, at several venues set up across the area to practice their skills, including wide-area search, confined space rescue, building shoring, extrication, concrete breaching and high-angle rescue.

A simulated Emergency Operations Center was set up at the State Emergency Operations Center in the State Defense Building for both days of the exercise. Personnel from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management provided situation injects and received information from the field. The Geospatial Technologies Section provided on-site mapping support to responders from the Public Information/Geospatial Information Systems vehicle.

The Topeka Red Cross provided meals for the responders, participants and observers at Lake Shawnee.

Multi-agency exercises such as this one help put into action the training personnel have been receiving.

"They have been drilling and training on this for a long time," said Erin McGinnis, state training officer, KDEM. "This is just to reaffirm what they already know, that they can handle this scale of a disaster. When you look at Reading and Greensburg, we have had those in Kansas."

## Nominations sought for William C. Brubaker Memorial Award

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

Nominations are still being accepted for the William C. Brubaker Memorial Award. The award is presented annually by the Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management to recognize an individual, team or organization that promotes and supports search and rescue efforts in Kansas.

This award provides recognition in a variety of areas related to search and rescue, including significant lifesaving efforts on a rescue scene or disaster response, training or program development, or any other significant effort that contributes to the furtherance of the search and rescue capability in Kansas.

The award was created in memory of long-time KDEM employee, Bill Brubaker, who passed away unexpectedly while deployed to Elwood, Kan., during the Missouri River floods of 2011. Brubaker served the citizens of Kansas in the areas of public safety and emergency management for



William C. Brubaker

more than 40 years, most recently as a regional coordinator for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. One of his responsibilities was the development of deployable resources in the state, which included search and rescue. Brubaker's efforts and support for disaster preparedness, response and training were instrumental in the initial development of a statewide search and rescue capability in Kansas.

Award recipients will be presented an award at the annual Kansas Technical Rescue Conference to be held in the fall of 2013 and will have their name placed on a wall plaque located at the Crisis City training facility in Salina, Kan.

Nominations for the 2013 William C. Brubaker Memorial Award should be in the form of a letter that includes detailed information about the individual, team, or organization being nominated. Additional documentation including pictures, media articles, etc., will help support your nomination. Contact information for the person or organization making the nomination must be included.

The deadline for nominations for the 2013 award is Aug. 2.

Send nominations to:  
William C. Brubaker Memorial  
Attn.: Selection Committee  
4845 SE Paulen Road  
Berryton, KS 66409

## Donated engine will enhance training opportunities at Crisis City



Jim Weese (right), of Crisis City, a multidiscipline training facility operated by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, received the keys to a fire engine from David Turner (left), battalion chief of the Salina Fire Department. The fire engine was donated by the Salina Fire Department March 19 at Crisis City, located eight miles southwest of Salina.

The vehicle is a 1981 Pierce Arrow engine with a 1,500 gallons-per-minute pump and a 500 gallon on-board water tank. In addition to the engine, the department donated hoses, ladders, nozzles and other miscellaneous used equipment.

The vehicle will be used for instruction and training in the operation of fire equipment as well as driver training. The department donated the vehicle as surplus equipment due to the purchase of newer equipment. However, the Salina Fire Department will still derive the benefit of training with the older engine at Crisis City.

Crisis City provides state of the art training facilities to all emergency response and support agencies, whether in one of its classrooms or on any of the training venues. Crisis City is a multiuse, fully functional training complex for local, state and federal responders, law enforcement officers, emergency management professionals, public and private industry safety professionals, and military operations in support of civil authorities. In addition to classroom space, training areas at Crisis City include railway accident response, an urban village, agriculture and farm safety, collapsed structure rescue, a technical rescue tower, aircraft venue and a pipeline venue. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)







# Kansas Division of Emergency Management welcomes new staff

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management recently added several new employees.

Erin McGinnis joined KDEM as the Training Program manager and will represent KDEM as the State Training Officer and the Training point of contact for the Homeland Security Grants funding and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium courses.

She has served as a corporate instructor for the past 15 years and previously ran the Training and Safety Departments at



Erin McGinnis

Bartlett & West, Engineers, where she implemented the training program, created Bartlett & West University, and instructed a variety of courses.

McGinnis is a graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She received her technician class license with the Federal Communications Commission for amateur radio in 1982 and previously worked as a dispatcher for the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department. She is a certified instructor with the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association in First Aid/CPR/AED. Her experience also includes being a certified Railroad Worker Protection Instructor for Kansas City Southern Railroad.

McGinnis became interested in Emergency Management during her involvement with the Community Emergency Response Team program and has been a vested supporter of CERT programming.

She is also a National Rifle Association pistol instructor and range safety officer.

Tamyra Shea earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Cameron University and has a background in property and casualty insurance. Shea has been a Kansas resident since 2005 and worked with the Saline County Emergency Management office prior to joining the KDEM team as the administrative specialist for Crisis City in Salina.

Shea and her husband enjoy family get-togethers and are active with their local Special Olympics teams.



Tamyra Shea

Jim Weese joined the Crisis City staff after retiring as a battalion chief from the Salina Fire Department in 2010 with 32 years of service. Weese earned a degree in fire science from Hutchinson Community College, received a Certificate of Leadership Excellence and was recognized for outstanding job performance. His duties at Crisis City include facility and grounds maintenance as well as the construction of new training venues.

Weese is the owner of Bugle Builders Construction Co., from which he retired in 2009. He and his wife Mary Pat have four children.



Jim Weese

# SE Regional Coordinator runs in Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon

**By Devan Tucking-Strickler  
Human Services Officer**

For the past 13 years, the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon has been run as a tribute to the victims, survivors and family members affected by the Oklahoma City bombing that occurred on April 19, 1995. The marathon serves to remember and pay tribute to these individuals and is a fundraiser for the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Miller, southeast regional coordinator, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, participated in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon April 28 to honor those affected by the bombing. At age 52, this was the first marathon for Miller.

“I’ve discovered that I enjoy running for a cause and this race is a great cause!” said Miller.

“I also love the mission of the memorial marathon,” she continued. “The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon is not about running. It is about life, honoring the memory of life lost through tragedy, celebrating the gift of life given equally to each person, and reaching forward into the future to life yet to be lived.”

Miller, who has been running for a couple of years, followed an 18-week training plan to prepare for the marathon, training throughout the Kansas winter.

“This past winter with the snow made it a real challenge to get the miles in that I needed to be prepared,” Miller said.

Miller remembers clearly the day in 1995 when Timothy McVeigh parked a rental truck loaded with explosives in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. The resulting explosion took the lives of 168 people.

“I was actually at home watching a morning show,” Miller recalled. “I was a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper then and was working an evening shift. I stayed glued to the TV all day until I had to go to work that afternoon.”

The remaining section of the structure was later demolished and the site is now home to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Today’s memorial and museum is made up of both outdoor and indoor features honoring the victims, survivors, and families also offering an interactive museum to educate individuals about the incident and the impact of violence.

As is tradition, the crowd at the start line paused for 168 seconds of silence to remember those who were killed in Oklahoma City and an additional three seconds for those killed at this year’s Boston Marathon. Miller chose to run this race in honor of one of the victims of this tragedy.

“I decided to choose one of the 168 victims to run for as a way to motivate myself and honor another person,” said Miller, who completed the race with a time of 5:05:04. “I read about all 168 of them. The victim’s story that stood out to me and touched me was that of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Lola Bolden. She was a recruiter in the Murrah Building. She was 40 years old, a 15 year Army veteran, and a single parent of three children. I chose her because I have respect for our military and I knew running a marathon would be easier than the life that Sergeant First Class Bolden had led.”

“The OKC Memorial Marathon is meaningful!” said Miller. “The mission, the city and the people of Oklahoma, they really care about their home and the city. I can’t count the number of times I was thanked for running.”



Jacquelyn “Jackie” Miller, southeast regional coordinator, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, shows off her medal for participating in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon April 28 to honor those affected by the Oklahoma City bombing. At age 52, this was the first marathon for Miller. (Courtesy photo)

# Candidate selected as Kansas 911 liaison

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

The Kansas 911 Coordinating Council and the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department have selected Scott Ekberg as the Kansas 911 liaison. Ekberg began his duties May 13.

The 911 liaison position was created in collaboration between the 911 Coordinating Council and the Adjutant General’s Department to enhance the provision of guidance and technical support by the council to the 118 Public Safety Answering Points in Kansas, to assist PSAPs and regional groups of local jurisdictions with planning and implementation of Next Generation 911 services, and to provide technical support services to the council and its subcommittees. This position is administratively located in the Adjutant General’s Department,



Scott Ekberg

which will further the collaboration between the council and the Office of Emergency Communications in the provision of public safety communications services to PSAPs.

Ekberg, of Great Bend, has served as an interoperable communications training specialist with the Kansas Office of Emergency Communications during the past four years, training Kansas first responders statewide on land mobile radio interoperability. He has more than 32 years of experience in law enforcement and emergency communications dispatch.

Ekberg is a past president of the Kansas Chapter of APCO and was a co-project manager in the development of the South Central Regional 911 Backup Center.

911 Coordinating Council members created the liaison position in 2013 to address the growing number of requests for information and assistance by Public Safety Answering Points as they plan for migration to NG911 service in their communities. Council Chair Walt Way said council members have been very willing to donate their time and energy to fulfillment of the council’s statutory duties over the past two years, which has resulted in a number of significant accomplishments including the recent adoption of the Kansas NG911 Strategic Plan. Way said it is time for the council to add the 911 liaison position to increase its level of communication and assistance provided to Kansas PSAPs, and that Ekberg brings both expertise and great experience to achieve those outcomes.

Established in 2011, the 911 Coordinating Council monitors the delivery of 911 services in the state, develops strategies for future enhancements to the 911 system and distributes grant funds to PSAPs. Next Generation 911 includes initiatives to update the 911 infrastructure to support incorporation of new capabilities and technologies including text, images, video, geolocation and other types of data intended to provide a more complete picture to dispatchers and responders.

For more information on the 911 liaison position, contact 911 Coordinating Council Chair Walt Way at 913-826-1010 or Col. Chris Stratmann at 785-274-1031.

# Kansas Division of Emergency Management receives accreditation

**By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office**

Kansas Division of Emergency Management has received full accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. KDEM successfully demonstrated compliance with all 104 standards to attain accreditation.

“This accreditation is a significant ‘stamp of approval’ that validates the commitment this state has to emergency management and protecting the health and safety of Kansans,” said Gov. Sam Brownback. “I congratulate the director of KDEM, Maj. Gen. Lee Tapanelli, and his staff on a job well done.”

EMAP is a voluntary review process for state and local emergency management programs that is a means of demonstrating through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that a program meets national standards for emergency management. These standards cover:

- Program Management
- Administration and Finance
- Laws and Authorities
- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis
- Hazard Mitigation
- Prevention
- Operational Planning
- Incident Management
- Resource Management and Logistics
- Mutual Aid

(Continued on Page 16)



# Director of Information Technology invites signal Soldiers to meet-and-greet

**By Spc. Anna Laurin**  
**105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The Kansas National Guard Command, Control Communications and Computers Directorate, known as the J6, invited all signal Soldiers and those interested in becoming signal Soldiers to a meet-and-greet at Nickell Armory, Topeka, May 4. The topics discussed included signal Soldier progression, communications security and satellite access request procedures, tactical radios and frequency management, and others.

“Today’s purpose was to bring all the signal people together,” said Capt. Shane Lightner, officer in charge of tactical communications, Joint Information Technology. “Most of the time, these Soldiers operate in small teams of one or two Soldiers.”

The Tactical Communications office wanted to show the Soldiers what the office does, the process the Soldiers can use to better utilize their signal equipment and to help strengthen their unit communication.

This event is beneficial to Soldiers who work with signal equipment but aren’t a signal Soldier or for those thinking about becoming a signal Soldier because they were able to learn how to understand and use their equipment to its full potential, said Lightner. Soldiers learned about what a signal Soldier does and what the J6 office does for those Soldiers and for others who might have questions.

“The J6 covers pretty much any communications,” said Lightner.

There are two sides to J6. First, there is the infrastructure side that handles full-time Soldiers who work with information technology, computers, phones, cell phones, said Lightner. Tactical communications covers everything else, which includes tactical emergency equipment which they



Signal Soldiers and those interested in becoming Signal Soldiers tour the computer server room during a Signal Meet and Greet hosted by the Joint Director of Information Technology at Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., May 4. (Photos by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

have at headquarters and use to interface with other agencies like Kansas Department of Emergency Management. It also covers anything that has to do with units and their tactical communications equipment and how to utilize those resources for an emergency.

“We wanted this office to be another avenue of getting stuff that was needed, either equipment, training, people or learning how to do a certain process,” said Lightner.

Instead of going through their unit, the Soldier working with communications can come through J6 and they can either point them in the right direction or do certain things for them.

In order to understand and see what a signal’s Soldier does, the group was given a tour of the server room, the J6 offices, the Help Desk and the Joint Operations Center.

The Joint Operation Center, or J3, is the hub of everything going on, said Lightner. Anything in the state of Kansas coming in or going out, usually the JOC is watching it.

“Our objective down here is to always have constant contact with National Guard Bureau,” said Master Sgt. Randy Rice, Joint Operations Center noncommissioned officer in charge, JFHQ.

When the Kansas Division of Emergency Management responds to an incident that requires assistance from the Kansas National Guard, they contact the JOC.

“We are the heartbeat of the Kansas National Guard down here,” said Rice.

If Soldiers have any questions about tactical communications, a request process such as getting satellite time, communication security training they might need or any resources, they can call or email Lightner in the Information Technology shop at (785) 274-1046 or Shane.d.lightner.mil@mail.mil.

## 69th Troop Command conducts retention briefing



Sgt. Danny Cheatham, a military police officer with the 35th Military Police Company out of Topeka, Kan., and his wife, Gail, attend a retention briefing for Soldiers and their spouses of the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment and the 35th Military Police Company at the Holiday Inn Holidome, Topeka, May 4. The briefing, conducted by 69th Troop Command and directed toward Soldiers who were within one year of the end of their service, presented information on the benefits of re-enlisting and continuing their service with the Kansas Army National Guard.

The briefing also gave Soldiers and their spouses the opportunity to address any case-by-case needs with the chain of command and retention staff pertaining to available re-enlistment options.

A re-enlistment ceremony was held at the end of the day for those that chose to extend. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

# KDEM receives accreditation

Continued from Page 15

- Communications and Warning
- Operations and Procedures
- Facilities
- Training
- Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Action
- Crisis Communications, Public Education and Information

“I am very proud of our KDEM team and the efforts that went into receiving this accreditation,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general and Division of Emergency Management Director. “It was a long and challenging process, but receiving this accreditation is an indicator of the skill, dedication and commitment of our team.”

Angee Morgan, deputy director of

KDEM, lead the staff through the nearly year-long process to become accredited.

“I have extremely dedicated people working for me,” said Morgan. “They are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and this accreditation is well-earned.”

KDEM began working toward accreditation early in 2012 providing documents on every facet of the department detailing how it does business day-to-day and during disasters. These documents were uploaded to a website for EMAP officials to review for compliance with EMAP standards.

An on-site assessment team was conducted in Topeka Dec 10-14, 2012, to review the documentation. KDEM staff then had 30 days to provide additional information to the EMAP council for review.

# Make use of the National Park Service Military Pass Program

### Military One Source

Did you know that U.S. military service members and their dependents can enjoy the scenery and recreation in National Parks for free? The annual military pass allows free admission at sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees for one full year from the month obtained (through last day of that month).

The military National Park pass:

- is available to U.S. military members and their dependents in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as most members of the U.S. Reserves and National Guard. Proper military ID is required (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173)
- can be obtained in person by presenting your U.S. military ID at most federal lands that charge an entrance or standard amenity fees
- covers entrance to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge entrance fees, and standard amenity fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation sites
- admits the pass owners and any accompanying passengers in a private noncommercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, or the pass owner and up to three additional adults at sites that charge per person
- is non-transferable (pass owner must be present when the pass is used)

### Other Park passes

There is not a pass specifically for veterans; however, many veterans qualify for one of the other discount passes offered as part of our pass program.

- If you are 62 or older you qualify for a Senior Pass. You can buy a Senior Pass in person from a participating federal recreation site or office or by mail.
- If you have a permanent disability you may qualify for an Access Pass. This is

a free lifetime pass that you may obtain in person from a participating federal recreation site or office or by mail.

### Where the pass is accepted

Please contact a site directly if you have a question about pass acceptance and fees. The Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation honor the annual pass at sites where entrance or standard amenity fee(s) are charged.

- Bureau of Land Management [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)
- Bureau of Reclamation [www.usbr.gov](http://www.usbr.gov)
- Fish and Wildlife Service [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)
- USDA Forest Service [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)
- National Park Service [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not be issuing this pass. However they may honor it for free access at some sites. For more information

contact your local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### Other details

- The pass has two signature lines. The pass is not valid until it is signed, so the U.S. military member or dependent must sign the pass with first and last name when the pass is issued. The second signature line is optional, but may only be signed by another U.S. military member or dependent. One of the signers must be present when using the pass.
- The pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping, boat launching, parking, special tours, special permits or ferries.
- Also, some facilities and activities on federal recreation lands (including those mentioned above) are managed by private concessionaires. The concessionaires charge for their services as any private company does and the pass is not valid for their services.
- Due to privacy and logistical considerations, passes cannot be replaced if lost or stolen; a new pass may be obtained.





# Kansas Soldier practices high-tech treasure hunting with kids

By **Spc. Lindsey Bogner, 170th Maintenance Company UPAR; Spc. Jessica Haney, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; and Staff Sgt. David Bonn, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Shooting hoops? Boring.  
Bowling? Not exciting enough.  
Movie? Nope.  
Hunting for treasure? Now you’re talking.  
Most family activities sound dull compared to treasure hunting – especially to Spc. Joseph Strong, of Pittsburg, Kan., and his family.

With his wife, Darcy, and sons Alex, 10, Jared, 9, and Ethan, 7, Strong participates in geocaching, a high-tech scavenger hunt. Strong, a plumber for Detachment 1, 226th Engineer Company, 891st Engineer Battalion in Pittsburg, began geocaching in 2010 after moving to Pittsburg to attend nursing school at Pittsburg State University.

“A neighbor told me about geocaching as a way to get outdoors and spend time with my kids,” explained Strong. Strong uses GPS and the coordinates of a cache to find items hidden all around the state, nation and world. He has found caches as small as a nickel and as large as a .50 caliber ammunition can. “The goal is to find the cache, sign the log proving you’ve been there, and log it online,” explains Strong.

His two youngest sons enjoy going as much as he does. The boys enjoy trading out what they call “treasure” found in the cache.

Using a geocaching website, Strong can find the coordinates of any cache in the world. He then uses GPS on either a dedicated system or his smartphone to find the location. GPS is accurate to about three meters, so once he’s there he has to search for the cache. They can be found anywhere, camouflaged and usually hidden. “It’s not always easy to find them,” he says. “They have accounts of their own, with 150-200 finds each,” reveals Strong. “Of-tentimes, if the cache is large enough, it will contain trinkets to share and trade.” Strong has about 1,015 finds of his own. He also has about 25 caches that he has placed around his hometown of Pittsburg. “I have one in my front yard; it looks like a birdhouse,” explains Strong. He has filled one of his caches with National Guard recruiting materials, but usually places

*“It’s about seeing what this country has to offer. There are so many places in this country that most people have never even heard of, let alone been to, and I want to see them.”*

*Spc. Joseph Strong  
geocaching hobbyist*

caches that are too small for items to trade. He has also included a “trackable” in one cache. A trackable is a tag, similar to a military ID tag, which has a serial number on it. When someone finds the cache, they can move the trackable to another cache, allowing Strong to follow the tag on its journey. In several months, Strong’s trackable has traveled from Kansas to Florida.

When he and his family travel, they plan stops by finding the closest caches to their route. They’ve traveled to California and Pennsylvania, geocaching along the way. On a recent drill weekend, attending a class in Salina, Strong was able to locate 15 caches while off-duty.

Last Father’s Day, Strong’s wife and sons took him on a dedicated geocaching trip. “We ended up in a cemetery in southeast Kansas,” he explains, “and while searching for a cache, we discovered the gravesite of a Medal of Honor recipient buried there.” The Medal of Honor recipient was a medic, the job Strong held when on active duty with the 101st Airborne. Strong has also found a cache at the first battle site of the Civil War near Baldwin City, and a cache near a cave used by outlaw Jesse James near Ponoma.

While there are several websites for geocaching, the first and most popular site is [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). Registration is free and once registered, it will allow you to start tracking your own treasure hunts.

“It’s about seeing what this country has to offer,” said Strong. “There are so many places in this country that most people have never even heard of, let alone been to, and I want to see them.”



**Spc. Joseph Strong, a plumber for Detachment 1, 226th Engineer Company, 891st Engineer Battalion in Pittsburg, and his kids (left to right) Alex, Ethan and Jared look over a treasure they found while geocaching. Strong uses GPS and the coordinates of a cache to find items hidden all around the state, nation and world. (Photo by Darcy Strong)**

## Family, friends, commanders receive Family Readiness training

By **Spc. Jessica Haney 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Approximately 50 commanders and volunteers were brought together at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kan., April 27-28 to receive training on how to improve communication and support between family members and unit command.

The Family Readiness Support Group offers information and referrals to service members and families in need of assistance, as well as support communication between commanders and family members. “The training was current and geared toward today’s Army,” said Sgt. Robert L. Williams, administrative noncommissioned officer of the 731st Transportation Company, Great Bend, Kan. “Deployments are down, but the focus on family readiness should be just as high as unit readiness because things change in an instant, and we never really know when our services will be required. An integral piece to mission effectiveness is the ability for families to

cope with the stressors of a deployed Soldier and this training provided the necessary resources to do just that.” The family readiness group helps with financial advice, employment help, health care benefits and more. “We are here to let people know where to go and what to do in order to get their issues fixed,” said Michelle Whitman, senior family readiness support assistant for the Kansas National Guard. Callers to the FRG office will be referred to a specialist to help them with their questions or problems. “We want to make sure people are taken care of,” said Whitman. “The focus of FRG is now changing to be connected at all times, not just at the time of deployment. We also always need more volunteers.” For more information about FRG and its programs, please contact Michelle Whitman at office: 785-274-1173, mobile: 785-806-1751 or email: [michelle.d.whitman2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:michelle.d.whitman2.ctr@mail.mil).

# 73rd Civil Support Team conducts change of command ceremony

**Continued from Page 10**  
in January 2010.

Cole deployed to Djibouti, Africa, in December 2010, joining the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment as the battalion judge advocate. Cole was tasked with the additional duty of serving as the operational law judge advocate for Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa, 2nd-137th CAB’s higher headquarters, from December 2010 until April 2011. Upon redeployment of the 2nd-137th CAB, Cole remained in the Horn of Africa and served as the command judge advocate, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, until redeploying home June 2011. During his tour in Africa, Cole served as an instructor on the Law of Armed Combat and United Nations Humanitarian Law at the Ugandan People’s Defense Force Advanced Infantry Training School at Camp Kasenyi, Uganda. He also served as a mentor to the Rwandan Defense Forces at the Rwandan Military Academy in Gako, Rwanda. Upon redeployment, he served in traditional Guard status as the legal advisor to the Joint Staff at Joint Forces Headquarters until he was selected for resident Command and General Staff Officer College. Cole earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., where he was a member of the football and track and field teams in 1992 and 1993. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., in 2000. In his civilian career he worked as an associate corporate counsel for BillSoft, Inc. in Lenexa, Kan., and as a tax research manager with Sprint in Overland Park, Kan. Cole’s awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Army

Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Kansas Emergency Service Ribbon and the Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon. Cole lives in Olathe, Kan., with his wife, Hillary, and three sons, Logan, Ryan and Adam. **Lt. Col. Dirk Christian** Lt. Col. Dirk Christian has served as the commander of the 73rd CST from March 2010 through April 2013. He was commissioned as an armor officer in May 1994 as an Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Distinguished Military Graduate from Western Illinois University. Prior to commissioning, he was enlisted for six years in the U.S. Army Reserves as a military police officer and the Illinois Army National Guard as a Man-Portable Air Defense Systems team leader and combat medic. Christian’s previous military assignments include tank platoon leader, heavy mortar platoon leader and battalion logistics officer with 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, Fort Riley, Kan. Christian transitioned into the Kansas Army National Guard in 1998 and has served as support platoon leader, battalion logistics officer, assistant battalion operations officer, battalion training officer, battalion operations officer and task force operations officer (deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo) with 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; training officer, Great Plains Joint Training Center operations officer and Officer Candidate School Company commander. Prior to assuming command of the 73rd CST, he was the deputy commander for Kansas Agribusiness Development Team #1, deployed to Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan. Christian’s military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course and Captain’s Career Course, Infantry Mortar Leader’s Course, National Training Center Opposing Forces Leaders Academy, Nuclear, Biological and Chemi-

cal Defense Course, Mobilization Planners Course, Unit Movement Officer Course, Combined Arms Staff Service School, Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace - Kosovo, Afghanistan Combat Advisors Course, Civil Support Skills Course, Civil Support Team Operations Course, Chemical Weapons Agents/Biological Weapons Agents Course, Unified Command/Advanced All Hazards Incident Management Course, Defense Nuclear Weapons Incident Response Course, and the Intermediate Level Education Course and Advanced Operations Course from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Christian’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with five oak leave clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NATO-ISAF (Afghanistan) Medal, NATO-ISAF (Kosovo) Medal, Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Kansas Commendation Ribbon, Kansas Achievement Ribbon, the Kansas Emergency Duty Service Ribbon with three sunflower devices, Louisiana Emergency Service Ribbon and the Florida Emergency Service Ribbon. Christian has been awarded the Combat Action Badge, Paratrooper Badge, the Bronze Order of Saint George Medal, Silver Cavalry Spurs (Merit) and Gold Cavalry Spurs (Combat Action). Christian works full-time for the Kansas Army National Guard and will now be assigned to the director of operations at the Joint Forces Headquarters as a senior plans officer. He lives in Topeka with his wife, Amy, and their three children.



# Civil Air Patrol members promote organization on local TV show

By Maj. Michael H. Mathewson  
Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer

Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Duane Filkins, wing vice commander (East), Lawrence, Kan., Cadet/Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Pugh, Topeka, Kan., and Cadet/Senior Airman Ellie Page, Lawrence, Kan., were interviewed by Ralph Hipp on WIBW 13 News at 4, at the WIBW studio, Topeka, Kan., April 29.

Sitting on the curved red couch, Hipp asked the trio questions about the Civil Air Patrol’s Cadet Program. Filkins explained that cadet program is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Although the 18th birthday is the cut-off for joining as a cadet, they may join as a senior member; a cadet may stay on until their 21st birthday. Even so, most cadets leave following their 18th birthday or shortly after graduating high school.

The purpose of the cadet program it to transform youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders through a curriculum of leadership, aerospace studies, fitness and character. The program follows a military model and emphasizes Air Force traditions and values.

Page told Hipp her most interesting experience with the Civil Air Patrol came last summer when she attended the National Emergency Service Academy at Camp Atterbury, Ind. “We were able to go out training missions and look for simulated downed aircraft and missing persons across the military base,” said Page.

“I am very happy about the way the interview went and the way that the cadets performed,” said Filkins. “I would like this to be the first of a series of regularly scheduled interviews covering the missions of the Civil Air Patrol.”

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has 196 cadets and 243 senior members. The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is part of a private, volunteer, nonprofit 50(c)(3) corporation and by congressional charter is an auxiliary of the United States Air Force. In 1997, the Kansas Wing was placed under the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department for administrative support and control of state resources and funding. The Civil Air Patrol is charged with three balanced primary missions; aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.



(Left to right) Cadet/Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Pugh, Topeka, Kan., Ralph Hipp, host of WIBW 13 News at 4, Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Duane Filkins, wing vice commander (East), Lawrence, and Cadet/Senior Airman Ellie Page, Lawrence, discuss the Civil Air Patrol cadet program during their segment on WIBW 13 News at 4, April 29. (Photo by Maj. Michael H. Mathewson, Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing Public Affairs Officer)

## Join the Civil Air Patrol

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for teens 12 to 18 years of age and adults to join our current volunteers in our important missions. The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Go to [www.kswg.cap.gov](http://www.kswg.cap.gov)  
for a Civil Air Patrol Squadron near you



# New command team welcomed

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett  
Public Affairs Office

Capt. Justin A. Stirling took over command of Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment as he accepted the unit guidon from Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander of 1st Bn., 108th Avn. Regt., during a change of command ceremony in the flight operations room of the Army Aviation Flight Facility #1 in Topeka, Kan., March 3. During the ceremony, Capt. Joshua A. Urban turned over command of the company to Stirling.

“I’m excited to command Alpha Company,” said Stirling. “I’m fortunate to have been mentored by Captain Urban and the members of the organization who have been the key to its success. I will continue to build on the positive attributes of the company and ensure we have a unit that is trained, ready, willing and able to safely deploy wherever our country or state needs us to. My wife, Jessica, and I would like the Soldier’s and families to know that we look forward to working with you to continue Alpha Company’s success in the future.”

Before relinquishing command in a symbolic ceremony of passing the unit guidon Urban conducted one last piece of business, promoting Sgt. 1st Class Derron Lindsey, a crew chief of Company A, to the unit’s new first sergeant.

“I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the first sergeant for Alpha Company,” said Lindsey. “I can’t express how much pride and respect I have for the Kansas Army National Guard, and espe-

cially in our Aviation Soldiers and families. I want to maintain our safety philosophies, education programs and build our unit strength by offering new challenges in training.”

**Capt. Justin A. Stirling**

Stirling received his commission from the University of Kansas in 2008. His first assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment as the assistant intelligence officer. After a branch transfer to aviation, Stirling attended flight school and was assigned as a platoon leader in Company A. He continued serving as a platoon leader in Company A throughout the battalion’s deployment to Kuwait, as well as holding the position of battalion fire marshal.

Stirling resides in Topeka with his wife, Jessica, and their daughter Roaslie.

**Capt. Joshua Urban**

Urban received his commission from Pittsburg State University May 2004. Urban completed flight school and Officer Basic Course in May 2005. Urban’s previous assignments include platoon leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, operations officer and company commander for Company A. In May 2008, he assumed command of Company A and has served in that capacity since. Urban’s career highlights include serving as platoon leader for Company A while deployed to Iraq in late 2007 supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and serving as commander for Company A while deployed to Kuwait in 2012 supporting Operation New Dawn.

Urban lives in Lawrence, Kan., with his wife, Ashley, and sons, Tyler and Kole.



Capt. Justin A. Stirling holds the Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment guidon steadfast as a symbol of accepting command of the company during a change of command ceremony March 3 in the flight operations room of the Army Aviation Flight Facility #1 in Topeka, Kan. During the ceremony, Capt. Joshua Urban turned over command of the company to Stirling. (Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dan Fogarty, Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment)

# Civil Air Patrol Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron conducts change of command

Civil Air Patrol Col. Rick Franz, Kansas Wing commander of the Kansas Wing, Civil Air Patrol commander, received the Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron’s guidon from CAP Lt. Col. Michael E. Madden, outgoing commander, symbolizing the end of his five years as squadron commander during a change of command ceremony held at the Nickell Armory in Topeka, Kan., April 15.

During the ceremony, Madden turned over command of the squadron to Maj. Michael H. Mathewson. Franz was the presiding officer.

Mathewson is a sergeant in the Kansas National Guard attached to the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Madden retired from the 190th Air Refueling Wing as a lieutenant colonel. Both are technicians working in the Directorate of Information Technology, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard.

“It is an honor to be allowed the chance to lead the squadron,” said Mathewson. “If I do half as well as Lieutenant Colonel Madden, then it will be a successful command.”

“It has been a pleasure to have led the squadron for these past five years,” said Madden. “I want to thank everyone for their support and dedication to me and to the squadron.”

Madden’s next assignment with the Civil Air Patrol will be as the wing vice commander (West). He will oversee the squadrons in Emporia, Junction City, Salina, Topeka and Wichita.

In addition to the change of command, Cadets D’Ante Lamb, Topeka, Kan., and Dominic Settanni, Rossville, Kan., were promoted to Cadet/Airman. Senior Member Kenneth Bates, Topeka, Kan., was promoted to CAP 2nd Lt., and Senior Member Christine Settanni, Rossville, Kan., was promoted to CAP 1st Lt.

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has 196 cadets and 243 senior members. The Topeka squadron has eight cadets and 14 senior members including five pilots.

The Kansas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is part of a private, volunteer, nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation and by congressional charter is the auxiliary of the United States Air Force. In 1997, the Kansas Wing was placed, by legislation, under the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department for administrative support and control of state resources and funding. The Civil Air Patrol is charged with three balanced primary missions: aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

(Photo by Cadet/Airman Basic Joachin Settanni, Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron)





# Nordquist accepts command of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery

By Pfc. Mitchel A. Jones  
Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR

On the morning of March 16, Soldiers of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment were called to attention as a change of command ceremony began. Capt. Ryan Evans turned over command of the battery to Capt. Matthew Nordquist.

The battery was called to attention for the passing of the guidon.

“The passing of the guidon is a time-honored tradition signifying the responsibility associated with the command in this ceremony,” said 2nd Lt. Paul Aelmore.

1st Sgt. Timothy Prine, first sergeant of Battery C, received the guidon from Spc. Justin Pitzer, guidon bearer for Battery C, which began the hand-off of the guidon.

“My main focus is to fully man all of our sections,” said Nordquist. “We need to keep people in and we need to bring new people in. Then really get the NCOs geared up to training their sections and owning their sections so that the future leaders know what they need to do. They’re excited about doing their job and they know how to train their lower enlisted people.”

Evans began his military career May 19, 2003. He graduated from the University of



**Capt. Matthew Nordquist, incoming commander of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, hands the unit guidon to 1st Sgt. Timothy Prine, first sergeant of Battery C, during a change of command ceremony March 16. (Photo by Pfc. Mitchel A. Jones, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery UPAR)**

Kansas Reserve Officers’ Training Corps as a field artillery officer.

Evans has been deployed to Iraq twice.

After leaving active duty, he became an instructor at the Kansas Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kan., followed by his

current assignment as the commanding officer of the battery.

Nordquist enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard May 17, 2003, and went to Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training in Fort Sill, Okla., graduating as a fire direction specialist. Nordquist worked his way up to staff sergeant before deciding to become an officer.

Nordquist went to Fort McClellan, Ala., in 2008 for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant March 8, 2008.

Nordquist returned to Fort Sill to attend the Field Artillery Officers Course.

Nordquist accepted his first position as an officer as the 1st platoon leader for Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment, in September 2008. He deployed with them in July 2009 to Sinai, Egypt. His unit was part of the main U.S. contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers. During the deployment, he was appointed as the executive officer of Battery A and promoted to first lieutenant. Promoted to captain May 11, 2012, Nordquist took the role of the logistical officer for the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment.

# 226th Engineer Company welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. David Bonn  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Capt. Chad Murrow took command of the Kansas Army National Guard’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 226th Engineer Company (Vertical) from Capt. Justin Rutledge during a change of command ceremony at the National Guard armory in Augusta, Kan., April 7.

Rutledge assumed command of the 226th Eng. Co. in 2011 upon his return from deployment in Afghanistan as the engineer officer with the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team # 2.

“Captain Rutledge has an excellent team in place and has the Soldiers of the 226th Engineer Company going in the right direction,” said Murrow. “It is now my job to continue what he has started and take the company to the next level.”

Rutledge thanked his noncommissioned officers for their leadership and support during his two years in command.

“The NCO leadership had their hands full keeping me in line. They are the backbone of the unit and the Kansas Army National Guard,” said Rutledge.

Following the change of command ceremony, the unit presented Rutledge with a saber as a token of appreciation for his time as commander. The 226th Eng. Co. is headquartered in Augusta with a subordinate unit in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Capt. Chad Murrow**

Capt. Chad Murrow, 35, of Fort Scott, Kan., enlisted in the military in 1997. He served more than 15 years with the Army National Guard. He received his commission August 2007 as an engineer officer through 235th Regiment Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kan.

Murrow has served with Company C, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; Detachment 1, Company C, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; Company A, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor; 772nd Engineer Mobility Augmentation Company; and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a team leader with Headquarters Support Company, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion, from September 2004 to January 2006.

He earned an Associate of Science degree from Fort Scott Community College, and by a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan. Murrow is currently working on his graduate studies at Pittsburg State University.

Murrow’s military education includes

Basic Combat Training, Combat Engineer Advanced Individual Training, Primary Leadership Development Course, Motor Transport Operator Advanced Individual Training, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course Phase I, Officer Candidate School, Basic Officer Leader Course, Company Level Pre-Command Course, Commanders Safety Course and the Engineer Captain’s Career Course.

Murrow’s awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device and bronze device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award, Kansas National Guard Army Achievement Medal and the Kansas National Guard Homeland Defense Service Ribbon.

Murrow and his wife, Misty, have two children, Corbin and Easton. They reside in Nevada, Mo.

**Capt. Justin Rutledge**

Capt. Justin Rutledge, 39, of Humboldt, Kan., enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in July 1995. He transferred to the Missouri Army National Guard and served from March 1997 to June 1999, when he transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard. Rutledge has more than 17 years combined active duty, reserve and National Guard service. He received his commission September 2003 as an engineer officer through Officer Candidate School in Salina, Kan.

Rutledge has served with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 418th Civil Affairs Battalion; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 203rd Engineer Battalion; Detachment 1, Company C, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; as a platoon leader with Company B, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; as the battalion personnel officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; as a platoon leader with 731st Transportation Company; as the battalion assistant operations officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion; and as the engineer officer with 2nd Battalion, 6th Calvary Regiment, Kansas Agribusiness Development Team #2. He deployed twice



**1st Sgt. Christopher Hargis, first sergeant of 226th Engineer Company, presents outgoing commander Capt. Justin Rutledge with a saber as a token of appreciation for his time as commander after a change of command ceremony held at the Kansas National Guard armory in Augusta, Kan., April 7. (Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bonn, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)**

in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, first as a platoon leader with Company B, 891st Engineer Combat Battalion from October 2004 to January 2006, and with the 731st Transportation Company, 11th Transportation Battalion from December 2006 to April 2008. From January 2010 to April 2011 Rutledge served a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the engineer officer with the Kansas Agribusiness Development Team #2.

Rutledge earned an Associate of Science degree from Allen County Community College, Iola, Kan. He later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in plastics engineering from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.

Rutledge’s military education includes Basic Combat Training, Patient Administration Specialist Advanced Individual Training, Combat Engineer Advanced Individual Training, Officer Candidate School, Engineer Officer Basic Course, Company Level Pre-Command Course; Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Exercise Course and the Anti-Terrorism Officer Basic Course.

Rutledge’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one campaign star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, NATO Service Medal – Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device third award and bronze hour glass, Humanitarian Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Mechanic Badge with Driver – Wheeled Vehicle Clasp, Kansas Service Medal (Class II), Kansas National Guard Homeland Defense Service Ribbon with “M” device, and the Kansas Army National Guard Strength Management Ribbon.

Rutledge and his wife, Jamie, live in



# Soldier had adventurous career

Museum of the Kansas National Guard  
www.kansasguardmuseum.org

Capt. Allison J. Pliley was born in Ross County, Ohio, in 1844. His family moved to Kansas around 1856, however, Pliley didn’t begin his service in Kansas military forces until Sept. 16, 1863, when he enlisted in Company F, 15th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry.

During the Civil War, he progressed through the ranks, serving as a corporal, first sergeant and second lieutenant, and participating in engagements in Missouri and Kansas against the forces of Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price.

Pliley was discharged from service July 31, 1865, and returned to civilian life in rural Topeka, where he began the study of law, which was interrupted by additional service to Kansas in 1867. Due to numerous reports of theft, murder, rape and kidnapping of settlers by Indian warriors, Gov. Samuel J. Crawford

called for volunteers, which resulted in the formation of the 18th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. Pliley worked as a civilian scout for this unit. Despite his civilian capacity, he was lauded by witnesses for his leadership which included commanding units. Although being shot twice during the Battle of Prairie Dog Creek, he continued fighting and rallying troops, and later, in the face of several hundred Indians made an incredibly brave dash by himself for help.

Not long after his services were complete with the 18th Kansas, Pliley joined Forsyth’s Scouts and was involved in the bloody Battle of Beecher’s Island, where 50 scouts held off 1,000 Indian warriors over a nine-day battle. Pliley was one of four men who were able to sneak through enemy lines and travel 73 miles on foot to Fort Wallace, Kan., to arrange a rescue.

Ironically, the commander of the troops who rode out to the battle, which was winding down by the time he arrived, later received the Medal of Honor. None of the four men who volunteered for the extremely dangerous mission and saved the unit received the medal.

Following his service with Forsyth’s Scout’s, Pliley was commissioned a captain by the governor and was given command of Company A, 19th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. When the entire unit became lost during a tremendous blizzard, Pliley lead a group of Soldiers through the blizzard at night for help. He personally found help, and the unit was saved from starvation and freezing to death. He served in this capacity from Oct. 20, 1868, until April 18, 1869, and was consistently being chosen to lead scouting and rescue details.

After serving with the 19th Kansas, Pliley was selected to command Company A, 2nd Frontier Battalion, which had been formed after Indians raided several settler’s homes near Lincoln, Kan. There, Pliley commanded over 80 men and 90 horses at the camp which eventually became known as Camp Pliley. Although no major battles occurred, the Indian hostilities in the area ceased while Camp Pliley was active.

Pliley eventually settled down andwas married July 30, 1871, to Martha “Mattie” L. Young. For several years he successfully worked in a variety of jobs, including laborer for hire and painter. Eventually, however, the call of adventure got the best of him and in 1876 he sent a letter to Gen. George Custer, who he had served alongside in 1868 and 1869, asking him for a scouting job. When no reply came in the mail, Pliley concluded that he better forget his adventurous plans once and for all, and find other work. Later, a reply from Custer finally arrived, offering Pliley the job, but it was too late. Custer and his men had already started their mission, which would end at Little Big Horn.

Pliley worked several different types of jobs, but eventually made a living by dredging sand for contractors in downtown Kansas City. In the winter, he would make money by cutting ice for storage. His home in Armordale, located in northern Kansas City, eventually filled with seven daughters. He aged quietly and eventually he became just another old man sitting on his porch reminiscing about his younger days.

The man who had saved the day so many times and had given so much to his country and state, died Feb. 22, 1917, at his home in Kansas City, Kan. He was 72 years old. Pliley was buried in the Quindaro Cemetery located at 38th and Parallel, Kansas City, beside his wife in lot 370, Section 5.

According to all accounts, Pliley was an extremely brave and modest man. A fellow Soldier who had campaigned across the Plains of Kansas with Pliley later wrote, “Mr. Pliley was one of the most effective scouts and one of the best cavalry officers of the day, but he is very modest, and never would push himself forward or toot his own horn. I know that Pliley was a tremendously prominent figure at that time...He is one of the gentlest, most unselfish and least calculating of men, simple-minded and frank, a man of great intelligence and common sense. Forty years ago courage was unnoticed -- it was taken for granted on the Plains; but Pliley’s courage was noticeably different from that of his fellows. He delighted in a desperate situation. He was a natural leader... Pliley always took the hard end of a job.”



Capt. Allison J. Pliley



84th Infantry Division — known as the “Railsplitters” or “Lincoln Division.”

By Chad Frey  
The Newton Kansan

Before dinner with his family April 13, James Lee Unruh was surprised, a bit taken back. He knew, because his wife told him, that there were extra people coming to dinner with the couple at Presbyterian Manor in Newton. He also knew enough to bring his Army jacket — a jacket that he wore during World War II.

He didn’t know that a neighbor and his son-in-law had found all his medals and put them in a shadow box frame for him to display proudly — or that Kansas National Guard members would be there in full-dress uniform to present the gift to him.

“I’m flabbergasted,” Unruh said. “I didn’t know any of this was happening.”

It was a moment that meant quite a bit to a man who fought in the famous “Battle of the Bulge” at the end of 1944 and beginning of 1945. It also meant quite a bit to Maj. Adam Krein, a member of the Kansas National Guard, who said he was honored to present the medals, which included a Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars, to Unruh.

“When you have a chance to do something for the Soldiers of World War II, you take it,” Krein said.

Before meeting Unruh, Krein met Mike Henry, Unruh’s son-in-law. The two looked over the case of medals, and told stories of being in the military. But mostly, they marveled at the collection of ribbons and medals in the case.

“This is rare. You don’t see this often,”

Krein said. Unruh entered the Army one week after getting married. He had been studying to be a scientist, taking courses like physics. But the military chose to place him in the infantry in 1944.

He was assigned to the 84th Infantry Division, known as the “Railsplitters” or “Lincoln Division.” A part of the 333rd Regiment, Company 4, Unruh landed at Omaha Beach on Nov. 1, 1944. He later spent a month at the Battle of the Bulge before heading to the Rhine River and Elbe River. He spent 171 days in combat.

“He is one of those unsung heroes who won’t sing his own praises,” Henry said.

Henry said, Unruh didn’t talk much about serving during World War II until recently. But in the past few weeks, some stories have started to come.

Unruh can tell stories of buildings exploding, patrols looking for Nazi Germans and saving families from starvation.

But Saturday, he wasn’t talking about those things.

“All I have to say about this is I’m lucky,” Unruh said.

His wife, Maxine, followed him to his U.S. posts while he served, and worried back home when he was in active battle.

“I didn’t think he would make it home,” she said.

But he did come home, and the couple has now been married 70 years.

(Used by permission of The Newton Kansan)



Maj. Adam Krein, battalion administrative officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, presents James Unruh a shadowbox filled with medals Unruh was awarded for service during World War II. (Photo by Chad Frey, The Newton Kansan)

# Spring brings new warrant officer candidates to school

Continued from Page 4

which is becoming a big issue throughout the entire ARNG. The warrant officer is one of the hardest positions to fill primarily because of the amount of experience, technical expertise, and documented leadership that is required to even be able to apply for candidacy. For these reasons, we simply cannot just take any Soldier. Therefore, our goal is to identify those top-performing noncommissioned officers within specific Military Occupation Specialties and then ask them to take a large step in their career to become a warrant officer.

If you have recently received a letter asking you to take this step, I strongly urge you to consider this opportunity. Also, I am asking those current KSARNG warrants to help me find these Soldiers and get them in contact with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sam Bonham to get their application process started. Again, I would like to thank those warrant officers who attended the conference, and continue to stress the importance of being involved within professionals organization such as NGAUS. I hope the information pro-

vided during the luncheon and breakouts was informative, and I look forward to seeing increased attendance next year.

As budget constraints continue to tighten, Soldiers should understand that schools will become more difficult to attend. Therefore, I urge you to take those necessary steps to put yourself in a position to capitalize on any school opportunity in case one arises. If you are currently enrolled in a distance learning course and waiting to attend the residence course, I urge you complete the course as soon as you can. I’ve been receiving e-mails and phone calls from various school houses asking to see if any KSARNG Soldiers would be able to fill last-minute cancelations. By completing your class sooner instead of later, you have greatly increased your chances to get to a school you need before it becomes a necessity and holds up your career. Again – don’t wait till the last minute to complete your distance learning.

In July there will be a Warrant Officer Call held in Salina at a location to be determined. This event will coincide with WOCS and our current candidates will be in attendance (provided their memorandum is approved) so that

they may meet some of their counterparts who are currently operating within their warrant Military Occupation Specialty. The following morning the candidates will formally be presenting their song and sign. I would ask that you make every effort to be present. There is a great deal of effort placed into this presentation each year. Past classes have really done an outstanding job with this task. I’m sure this year’s class will be no exception, so please try to come support our future warrant officers.

In closing, please never forget that no matter where you’re at in your military career, you did not get to this point alone. I am certain that at some point, many of you have sought out someone’s advice and have received mentorship which has influenced your career path. Mentorship is one of the key factors for our success, so please don’t forget to pass it down. Thank you to those who have submitted information for this issue. If there’s any warrant officer news that you would like to see posted, please send it to me at hector.a.vasquez4.mil@mail.mil or call me at (785) 274-1903.



# Kansas Airman shoulders a heavy load to benefit others

By **Tim Unruh**  
**Salina Journal**

Movement is spotted on a gravel road in the hills west of Salina, Kan., where Lt. Col. Michael “Petey” Arnold Jr. trains five times a week.

The image of a warrior emerges from the shadows of a ravine. The Airman is dressed in camouflage -- “The Full Monty,” he said -- including body armor, a rucksack, helmet, boots and other gear necessary to manage air traffic in a war zone. The “kit” adds 100 pounds to his 195-pound frame.

“I just turn off my brain, turn on the music, and enjoy the run,” said Arnold, 37. He trains in thinclad garb most days, but late in the week, the Soldier is fully decked out.

Arnold runs that way in distance races to raise money and awareness for fallen or injured members of the Tactical Air Control Party.

Next up was the Kansas Half Marathon April 21 in Lawrence. After two more half marathons, the Five Trails May 19 in Leavenworth and the Hotter Than Hell Aug. 12 in Dallas, he’ll be ready for the U.S. Air Force Marathon Sept. 21 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Arnold intends to complete the 26.2 mile race with all of his gear.

Out in the country, he scoots along at a steady rate of 13 to 14 minutes a mile, keeping his head down and focusing on the task of honoring brothers and sisters in the small, but significant unit.

In short, these military units comb the landscape in enemy territory and call in air strikes from fighter jets and bombers.

### The guys down range

On a recent run, Arnold took a break from running on the 4-mile loop near the Smoky Hill Weapons Range to talk about his training. He works at the range as a member of the Kansas Air National Guard and director of operations for the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron headquartered in Salina.

Smothered in perspiration, steam billows from him as he removes his helmet on this crisp, early spring morning.

Just another “good day” for the man from Durant, Okla. “This is in appreciation of the guys down-range. It gives a glimpse of what it’s actually like,” Arnold said. “There are guys in eastern Afghanistan in 7,000- to 9,000-foot elevations. They don’t get to come home every night.”

He should know, having survived six deployments overseas, some of them to Afghanistan and Iraq.

### Ruck for Warriors

On a poster at [usaftacp.org](http://usaftacp.org) titled, “Rucking Jayhawks: Marching the Miles, Ruck for Warriors,” Arnold wrote that he runs to “highlight the physical capabilities and endurance required of the TACP Community,” and to “raise awareness for the career field and the members that have been killed or wounded in the line of duty.”



**Lt. Col. Michael “Petey” Arnold Jr. running on a county road near the Smoky Hill Weapons Range, Salina, Kan., March 28 in preparation for the Eisenhower Hall marathon April 13 in Abilene, his third of six races culminating with the United States Air Force Marathon Sept. 21 in Ohio. (Photo by Tom Dorsey, Salina Journal)**

Arnold joined the effort nine years ago to include Maj. Gregory Stone’s name on the TACP memorial in Hurlburt Field, Fla. Stone was killed in action during the Iraq invasion in 2003. He was Arnold’s first TACP commander.

The TACP Association is in place to help Airmen and their families with living and medical expenses in times of need. Arnold’s goal in running the races is to collect enough donations to put \$5,000 in the fund. So far, he’s raised about \$500.

To help out Arnold’s effort, visit [usaftacp.org/2013/the-rucking-jayhawk](http://usaftacp.org/2013/the-rucking-jayhawk).

“I pretty much do all of this on my own. I pay my own entry fees and travel costs,” he said.

### The legs get rubbery

Showing up to run in all of the gear does bring attention to Arnold’s cause, at least at the beginning of the race. By the end, he’s usually by himself bringing up the rear.

“I’m not fast, about a 13- or 14-minute mile,” he said.

After seven or eight miles, Arnold said, his legs get a bit rubbery.

“It’s like you’re constantly doing squats for the last few miles,” he said. “When you think about cutting off or quitting, it’s not as bad as what the guys down range are doing.”

To graduate from TACP school, you have to run in full gear for 12 miles for three hours.

“That run does include a weapon. I don’t run with one in races,” he said. “People would get nervous.”

### It’s for a good cause

Running 13.1 miles with a rucksack on is “no joke,” said Lt. Col. Gary Nash, the 284th ASOS squadron commander.

“The money’s all going for a good cause,” Nash said. “It’s a great thing, and I’m really proud of (Arnold) for doing it. He’s got more gumption than I would have.”

Arnold participated in a separate fundraiser in a 24-hour relay run to raise money for the association. There were 25 people involved locally, raising about \$1,600, but it was in conjunction with ASOS units around the world.

“We all ran 30 to 40 minutes,” Nash said. “A couple of guys ran twice. It was pretty cool.”

# Kansas employers named semifinalists for national award

### Courtesy story

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense operational committee, announced that two Kansas employers have been selected as semifinalists for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoD’s highest honor for employers that provide extraordinary support to their Guard and Reserve employees. This year, 138 semifinalists stood out among 2,899 employers nominated by a Guard or Reserve employee.


The Kansas employers named semifinalists are City of Shawnee, Kan., and Garmin International, Inc., Olathe.

More than one million Americans serve in the National Guard and Reserve, playing a critical role in both combat and humanitarian missions. The Freedom Award provides these service members with an opportunity to recognize civilian employers that go above and beyond in supporting their service. Employers selected as semifinalists assist Guard and Reserve employees through formal and informal initiatives, including setting veteran hiring goals, establishing military employee liaisons, providing childcare for deployed employees, arranging care package drives, and granting additional leave for military employees and family members before and after deployments.


“Freedom Award semifinalists stand out for their extraordinary support and steadfast commitment to our nation’s Citizen Warriors,” said ESGR Executive Director Ronald G. Young. “National Guard and Reserve members show tremendous resolve overseas and during times of domestic crises. Our nation owes a special debt of gratitude to employers enabling these brave men and women to serve.”

ESGR will announce the 2013 Freedom Award finalists after a review board comprised of military and civilian leaders selects the 30 most supportive employers. Up to 15 award recipients will be announced early this summer and honored in Washington, D.C. in September at the 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony.





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**184th IW Director of Psychological Health**  
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# Awards and Decorations


<p><b>KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD</b></p> <p><b>Legion of Merit</b></p>  <p>Chief Warrant Officer 4 Darrell Linenberger, Det 37 OS-ACOM, Topeka Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ron Jackson, Det 37 OSACOM, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Bronze Star Medal</b></p> 



Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka  
 Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka


<p><b>Meritorious Service Medal</b></p>  <p>Maj. Michael Howell, HHC, 287th Sust Bde, Wichita                      Capt. Matthew Hapke, HQ, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Kansas City                      Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Maxwell, HHC, 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Walter Boyer, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hall, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Anita Freeborn, 635th RSG, Hutchinson                      Master Sgt. Annette Frenzl, KSARNG Med Det, Lenexa                      Sgt. 1st Class Beverly Claycamp, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Carline Long Jr, HHB, 1st Bn, 161st FA, Wichita                      Sgt. 1st Class Walter Thew, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia                      Staff Sgt. Leonard Cyre, 778th Trans Co, Kansas City                      Staff Sgt. George Villarreal, HHD, 635th RSG, Hutchinson                      Sgt. Randy Fortin, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Colby</p>
<p><b>Army Commendation Medal</b></p>  <p>Capt. Ashley Larson, HHQ, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka                      Master Sgt. Stephen Finch, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Benton Day, Co B, Rec &amp; Ret, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka</p>


<p><b>Army Good Conduct Medal</b></p>  <p>Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Afghanistan Campaign Medal</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka</p>

<p>Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal</b></p>  <p>Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka</p>


<p><b>Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
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<p><b>NATO Medal</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
<p><b>Overseas Service Ribbon</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka</p>

<p><b>Kansas Homeland Defense Service Ribbon</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Ron Boyer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Lt. Col. Russell Richardson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Wesley Topel, ADT #4, Topeka                      Maj. Carlin Williams, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mark Doud, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Mario Polite, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Todd Stuke, ADT #4, Topeka                      Capt. Jessica Walker, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Kathleen Argonza-Pangburn, ADT #4, Topeka                      1st Lt. Andrew Webster, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Ross, ADT #4, Topeka                      Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Baxa, ADT #4, Topeka                      Warrant Officer 1 Aaron Shrader, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Ron Brandt, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Rick Anderson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jack Bergeron, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carriger, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
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<p><b>Air Force Commendation Medal</b></p>  <p>Maj. Kelly Martin, 184th IW, Wichita, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster                      Maj. Mark Sheils, 184th IW, Wichita                      Capt. Simone Culver, 184th IW, Wichita                      Capt. Jennifer Scheible, 184th IW, Wichita                      1st Lt. Brett Jenlink, 184th IW, Wichita                      1st Lt. Casey Montgomery, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Tiyonna Evans, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Randi Hill, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Jennifer Allen, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Paul Bliss, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Caron Carlile, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. James Caughron, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Brian Clingan, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Cornelius Hulum, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Floyd Parks, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Janet Probst, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Curtis Rogers, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Wesley Shockey, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Cindy Bryers, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Michael Clark, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Tricia Deluna, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster</p>
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<p><b>PLAINS GUARDIAN • MAY 2013</b></p> <p>Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clair, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. 1st Class Keith Lassiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Joshua Dye, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Thomas Heiter, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Matthew Helmer, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Timothy Hoesli, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. Jeremy Layman, ADT #4, Topeka                      Staff Sgt. John McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jason Collier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Steven Cope, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Kyle Galvin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Timothy Geier, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. James Hensley, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. John Kemp, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jonathan Lee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Jeff Masterson, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. David McCord, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Bethany Owens, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Brandon Shouse, ADT #4, Topeka                      Sgt. Robert Skinner, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James Ashbaugh, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Michael Corgait, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Christopher Dee, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Fletcher, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Harlan, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Troy Hogelin, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Joshua Karhoff, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Thomas Link, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. James McCoy, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Matthew Menser-Roberts, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Frankie Moore, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jared Poston, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Elliott Reece Jr., ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Nicholas Renfro, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Richard Sanchez, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Jaime Shelton, ADT #4, Topeka                      Spc. Corey Wulf, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. Patrick Fox, ADT #4, Topeka                      Pfc. James Thompson, ADT #4, Topeka</p>
<p><b>KANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b></p> <p><b>Meritorious Service Medal</b></p>  <p>Lt. Col. Jamie Hutchinson, 184th IW, Wichita                      Lt. Col. Stephen Mizak, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Lt. Col. David Weishaar, 184th IW, Wichita, with 6th Oak Leaf Cluster                      Lt. Col. Terry Williams, 184th IW, Wichita                      Maj. Janel Blaufuss, 184th IW, Wichita                      Maj. Richard Moon, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Maj. Mark Sheils, 184th IW, Wichita                      Maj. Kathryn Wattsharkness, 184th IW, Wichita                      Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Moore, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Mark Angelini, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Shellie Armstrong, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. James Chessher, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Graves, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Senior Master Sgt. Randi Hill, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. Russell Mercer, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Senior Master Sgt. David Perez, 184th IW, Wichita                      Senior Master Sgt. Stacie Smith, 184th IW, Wichita                      Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Steadman, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Senior Master Sgt. John Willey, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Gary Alexander, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Susan Ballard, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Justin Berterton, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Nicholas Deguire, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Master Sgt. Henry Devader, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Mary Douglass, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Sherry Fagan, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Master Sgt. Steven Finley, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Michael Mangus, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Mista Pike, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Christopher Platzter, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Jeremy Rabb, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Elbert Randall, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Paul Riggs, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Master Sgt. Thomas Shaffier, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster                      Master Sgt. Kelly Short, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Timothy Trapp, 184th IW, Wichita                      Master Sgt. Jack Willenberg, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Jennyfer Bjerken, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Cori Fortner, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. William Galbreath, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Frank Glenn, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Kelly Johnson, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Troy Kaufman, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Krohn, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Melanie Nelson, 190th ARW, Topeka                      Tech. Sgt. Ronald Richert, 184th IW, Wichita                      Tech. Sgt. Nikeetor Woods, 184th IW, Wichita</p>



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Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Flanigan, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Garner, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Paul Jones, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kitchen, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Alyshia Leisure, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Tech. Sgt. Peter Massad, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Jason McAndrews, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. John Montgomery, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Gary Owens, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Kirk Porter, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Donald Shores, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. James Stevens, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Ashley Tremblay, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Vanfosson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Wheeler, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Chhorvy Willis, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Dale Wright, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Clifton, 184th IW, Wichita, with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Ryan Delarber, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Hansen, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Jessica Moore, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Zachary Whitener, 184th IW, Wichita

Air Force Achievement Medal



Chief Master Sgt. Chad Johnson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Senior Master Sgt. Amy Buchanan, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Brendan Boales, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Charles Frank, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Master Sgt. Jerry Gardinier, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. John Fagan, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Adam Fortner, 184th IW, Wichita, with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Eric Poe, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Tech. Sgt. Erik Rollefson, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Stephen Vogt, 184th IW, Wichita, with 4th Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Benoit, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Seth Brees, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. April Carron, 184th IW, Wichita  
Staff Sgt. Erin Oatley, 190th ARW, Topeka, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Staff Sgt. Heath Wilson, 184th IW, Wichita, with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster  
Senior Airman Rachelle Crouse, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Blake Elliott, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Nathan Hansen, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Kayla Kohn, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Senior Airman Christopher Nauslar, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Airman Ceara Shaughnessy, 184th IW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Serena Castillo, 184th IW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Adam Edwards, 184th IW, Wichita  
Airman 1st Class Joseph Wallace, 184th IW, Wichita

Retirements

Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Ronald Chronister, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Maxwell, HHC (-), 1st Bn, 108th Avn, Topeka  
Sgt. 1st Class Jose Cintroncolon, Det 1, 170th Maint Co, Colby  
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Kenmore, HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Spatz, 1161st FSC, Hutchinson  
Staff Sgt. Kristina Behling, JFHQ KS-LC, Topeka  
Staff Sgt. Steven Winsky, 250th FSC (-), Ottawa  
Sgt. William Carr, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan  
Sgt. Gary Poff, Co D, 2nd CAB, 137th Inf, Emporia  
Cpl. Douglas Kalmar, Btry B (-), 1st Bn, 161st FA, Paola  
Spc. Terry Irvin Jr., HHC, 169th CSSB, Olathe  
Pfc. Joshua Morgan, Det 1, 778th Trans Co, Manhattan

Kansas Air National Guard

Senior Master Sgt. James Chessier, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. Jay Honey, 184th IW, Wichita  
Senior Master Sgt. John Willey, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Dennis Burdick, 190th ARW, Topeka  
Master Sgt. Kelly Short, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Ronald Richert, 184th IW, Wichita  
Tech. Sgt. Donald Shores, 184th IW, Wichita

Kansas Guard kids enjoy 2013 Youth Symposium

By Michelle Jones  
Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
Kansas National Guard

Military children, young and old, gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, April 13 for this year’s Kansas National Guard Youth Symposium. The kids were split into groups of six to 12 and 13 to 18.

The younger group had a day full of aviation and science. First, they toured Black Hawk helicopters of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, in Salina, and then learned about different forms of aviation from the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

On the return trip they stopped at the Russell Stover’s Candy Factory and received a sample of salt water taffy and a Kansas State University chocolate bar.

Once they returned to the hotel, they heard from Jessica Cox about bullying and resiliency. She is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, a pilot, as well as, a motivational speaker. However, Cox was born without arms.

“I never say ‘I can’t,’” said Cox. “I just say ‘I haven’t figured out how to do that yet.’”

After dinner the children took a trip back to Salina to STARBASE, and programmed Lego robots.

Nationally known speaker Craig Hillier spoke on resiliency, responsibility and re-



Military kids six to 12-years-old attending the Kansas National Guard Youth Symposium tour Black Hawk helicopters of Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment in Salina, Kan., April 13. (Courtesy photo)

spect in a high energy session with the 13 to 17-year-olds. Putting their new teamwork skills to the test, the teens conquered the low and high ropes challenge course at

Kansas State University. A social with DJ Cain topped off the 2013 Kansas National Guard Youth Symposiums as the kids danced the night away.

# TEEN CAMP

JUNE 17-21, 2013

OPEN TO ALL KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH AGES 13-17 YEARS OLD

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1ST, 2013

FOR AN APPLICATION, OR TO LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

DARCY L. SEITZ  
OFFICE: (785) 274-1967  
DARCY.L.SEITZ.CTR@MAIL.MIL

# Operation: Kid's Camp

July 8-12, 2013

Open to all Kansas National Guard youth ages 8-12 years old

Registration opens May 1st, 2013

For an application, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Darcy L. Seitz  
Office: (785) 274-1967  
darcy.l.seitz.ctr@mail.mil

Military Kids Connect website also helps parents, educators

Armed Forces Press Service

The Defense Department website for military children has added new features to help parents and educators explain difficult topics of the military lifestyle to children.

Since its launch January 2012, MilitaryKidsConnect.org has served more than 125,000 visitors and won five industry excellence awards. To mark the one-year anniversary, the website added new content designed for children, parents and educators, officials said.

- The new features include:
- Military culture videos and lesson plans for teachers, school counselors and educators to better understand the differences between military and civilian youth;
  - Graphic novels and mini-documentaries by military kids sharing their experiences;
  - New modules for children and parents on handling grief, loss and physical injury.

The website, created by the Defense Department’s National Center for Telehealth and Technology, known as T2, uses innovative ways to help military youth cope with the unique strains of military life.

In addition to disruptions from parents deploying to assignments away from home, mili-

tary children are affected by moving frequently, changing schools and making new friends.

They also have to live with readjustment issues when a parent returns from deployments. These issues may include post-traumatic stress and physical disabilities.

“After watching the interaction with kids on MilitaryKidsConnect this past year, we saw many conversations about trying to understand the issues they live with,” said Dr. Kelly Blasko, T2 psychologist. “We developed the added features to help parents and teachers answer the questions the kids were sharing with each other.”

Blasko said the website is continuing to add features and information to military children with the special challenges of living in a military family.

Separations, moving and changing friends frequently may be unusual for civilian children, but it’s a normal lifestyle for military children. The website helps them live in that world and, hopefully, makes it more fun for them, Blasko added.

The National Center for Telehealth and Technology serves as the primary Defense Department office for cutting-edge approaches in applying technology to psychological health.



The Defense Department website for military children is celebrating its one-year anniversary with new features. (www.militarykidsconnect.org)



## Soldier and Airman honored by Topeka Military Relations Committee

By Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Six service members of Topeka’s military community were recognized by the Topeka Military Relations Committee during the Topeka City Council meeting March 5.

The recipients were selected by their respective military services to receive the “Military Person of the Year Award” from the Military Relations Committee. The committee was formed in 2003 by a group of Topeka businessmen to promote the military within the community.

Sgt. Sarah E. Cowell, Topeka, a human resources specialist of Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas Army National Guard, was honored for her community participation with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka, mentoring an 11-year-old girl; Topeka Adopt-A-Family programs; as well as being a supervising judge at a Topeka polling station.

Tech. Sgt. Glenn King, Topeka, a stock control and document control manager with the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, was honored for his involvement as the Junior Achievement Bowl-a-thon/Classroom Program co-coordinator for the 190th ARW. King is president of the 190th ARW’s First Five Council, a group comprised mostly of junior enlisted members. He also planned and recruited the wing’s participation in Winter Wonderland at Lake Shawnee, a fundraiser for TARC, Inc.

Also honored were Maj. Jerod Bond, United States Army Reserve; Sgt. Verdell B. Rhett, United States Marine Corps; Yeoman 2nd Class Benjamin M. Dale, United States Coast Guard and Yeoman 2nd Class Nicole M. Finley, United States Coast Guard Reserve.

Before the formal presentation, the award recipients had an informal meeting with David H. Fisher Jr., chairman, Topeka Military Relations Committee, and Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten. Bunten expressed his pleasure with having such a positive military presence in Topeka.

A Color Guard made up of members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps representing the Army, Topeka West; Marine Corps, Topeka High; Navy, Shawnee Heights and Air Force, Highland Park. Chaplain (Col.) William D. Jenkins, state chaplain of the Kansas National Guard, conducted the invocation.

Each honoree was introduced by a senior member of their chain of command. The introduction recited the honoree’s activities and achievements. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard, introduced Cowell and Col. Ron Krueger, commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing, introduced King. After the introduction, Bunten presented each with their award.


Tafarielli expressed his pride of Cowell and King, who went the extra distance to support the community they live in and that the community went out of its way to recognize their efforts.

“I am very proud and honored to receive this award,” said Cowell.

“I am grateful for this award, but I do not do what I do for awards,” said King.



Tech. Sgt. Glenn King (left), a member of the Kansas Air National Guard, along with Sgt. Sarah E. Cowell, of the Kansas Army National Guard, and four other service members receive the Military Person of the Year Award from Bill Bunten (right), mayor of Topeka, and the Topeka Military Relations Committee at the Topeka City Council meeting March 5, 2013, in a brief ceremony sponsored by the Topeka Military Relations Committee. (Photo by Sgt. Michael H. Mathewson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



## 2013 Strong Bond Events

Strong Bonds is a chaplain-led program which builds relationship resiliency. The Strong Bonds mission is to increase Soldier and Family readiness through relationship education and skills training. Events are open to all Kansas Army National Guard members. Units returning from or preparing for deployment will have first priority on registration. If you have questions or want to register, contact Sgt. Jimmy Boss at 785-274-1514 or email him at Jimmy.d.boss.mil@mail.mil

### Marriage Enrichment Seminars:

**June 28-30 – Overland Park**

**Sept. 20-22 – Overland Park**

Space is limited to the first 30 couples who register for the seminar

Lodging, meals, and childcare are provided

Spouse must be registered in DEERS

### Single Soldier Enrichment Seminar:

**Aug. 9-11 – Wichita**

Space is limited to the first 60 Soldiers who register for the seminar

Lodging, meals, and childcare are provided

## Department of Labor secretary signs ESGR Statement of Support



Lana Gordon (center), secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor, signed a Statement of Support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve March 14. Michael ‘Mick’ Allen (left), Kansas State ESGR Chairman, and Alan Barrett (right), vice-chairman and awards director for the Kansas State ESGR, were present for the signing.

The statement signing is an employer’s indication they recognize the additional tasks that employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve must do and they agree to support them through these efforts.

“The Kansas Department of Labor supports Kansas Employers who recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Right Act,” said Gordon. “We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.”

“The cooperation of our state’s employers is essential to the welfare and morale of our citizen Soldiers and Airmen,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, the adjutant general. “Secretary Gordon’s statement of support for ESGR adds extra weight to our efforts to get employers on board with the program.” (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Barnett, Public Affairs Office)

## Guardsmen assist at Governor’s annual Easter Egg Hunt

By Spc. Brandon C. Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
CAP Maj. Michael H. Mathewson,  
Kansas Civil Air Patrol Wing

On a cold and windy day Kansas National Guardsmen and members of the Kansas Civil Air Patrol Topeka Eagle Composite Squadron waited in the lower level of Cedar Crest, the Governor’s mansion, for the annual Governor’s Easter Egg Hunt March 23. For the second year in a row, they waited on the event planners to determine if the weather would cancel the annual event.

At 8 a.m. the call was made, the hunt would be on. Members of the 35th Military Police Company provided traffic control and physical security.

“We are excited to show the community we are involved, as more than a military resource,” said Pfc. Brandt L. Cessna, an automated logistical specialist of Topeka, Kan. “The Guard can better the community as a whole.”

While the Guardsmen were keeping a watchful eye on the weather, the Civil Air Patrol members were hurriedly stuffing over 25,000 plastic Easter eggs with candy and chocolate. Once that was done, they helped load a pickup truck full and followed behind it on foot until they reached their assigned area where they went to work spreading the area with candy.

“It was harder than I thought it was going to be,” said CAP Senior Member Christine Settanni. “We had so many eggs and I did not want to put them all into one big pile, but to spread them out without stepping on them.”

As families arrived, Guardsmen assisted them on to school busses to transport them from the parking lot to the hunt.

Despite the cold and clouds, over 400 people arrived in time for Kansas first lady Mary Brownback to take the stage. When her countdown reached zero, members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment in Paola, Kan., fired off a 75mm Howitzer.

Yasmari and Alima Rodriquez of Topeka,

Kan., enjoyed the hunt as well.

“My favorite part was holding all the eggs,” said the six-year-old Alima. “The baby didn’t get to have fun she just slept.”

After all the preparation and egg hiding the hunt itself took just 12 short minutes, and all 25,000 eggs were found.

“We’re glad the Guard’s services are here right now to help with the recent snow storms and the Easter egg hunt,” said Kansas Governor Sam Brownback.

After all was done and cleaned up at Cedar Crest, the Guardsmen still had to report back to their armories. Only then could they go home and enjoy their weekend.

“This was more fun than I thought it was going to be,” said CAP Cadet Senior Airman Kyle Nicholson, of Vassar, Kan. “I am already looking forward to next year.



Sgt. 1st Class David Palmer, a food specialist with 35th Military Police Company, and Lt. Col. Jerritt Curtis, deputy director of Plans at Joint Forces Headquarters, pose for a picture with several youngsters at the annual Governor’s Easter Egg Hunt held at the Cedar Crest Mansion in Topeka, Kan., March 23. (Photo by Spc. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)